
WHEN A MAGICIAN'S PUPIL SMILES
2
Chisaki Kanai


When a Magician's Pupil Smiles
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2

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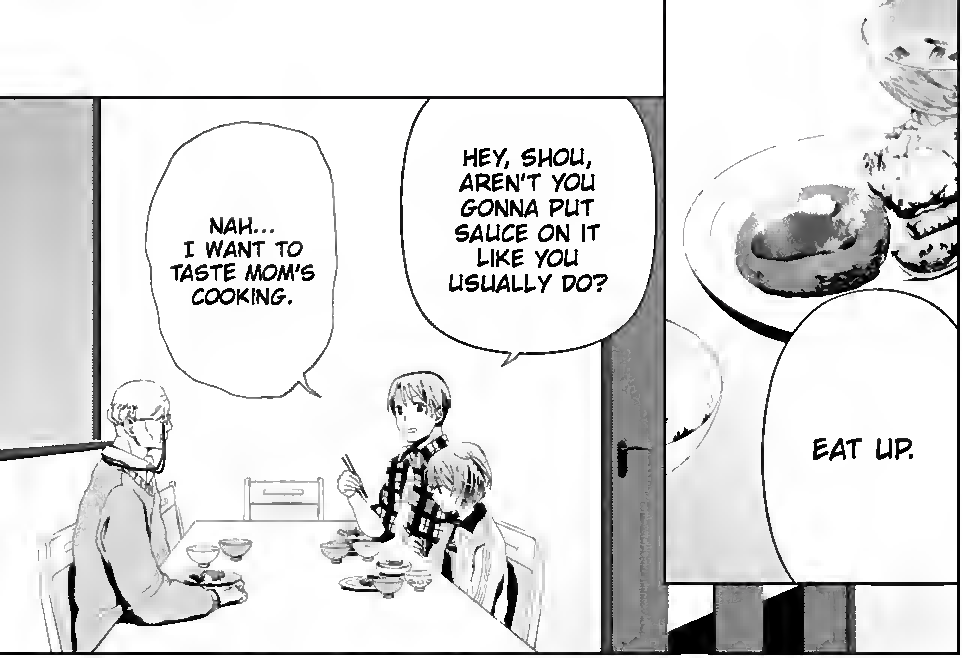
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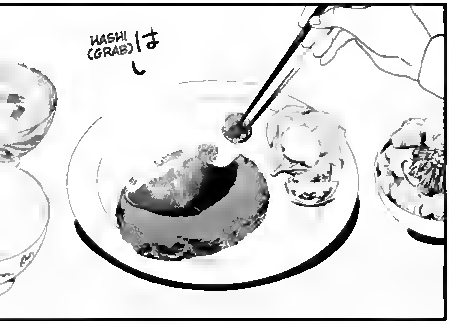

CHAPTER 5 "SHOU TAKAHATA 1"
I...
I'LL...
...BE HIS FRIEND.

When a Magician's Pupil Smiles

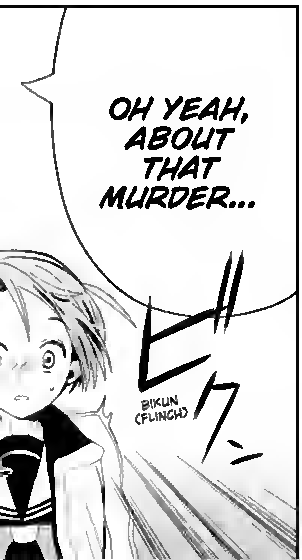

I'M BACK.
GACHA (KA-CHAK)
BATA (THUD)
BATA
SHOU!
YOU HAVE TO CALL IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE!
GRANDPA WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO...
...YOU KNOW...?
KATA (TI...NDLE)
KATA


...THEY BOTH SAID THEY WERE GONNA BE LATE TONIGHT...
OH...
HEY... WHAT'S WRONG?
ONII-CHAN...
...WHERE ARE MOM AND DAD?
PATA ぱた
SHOU-CHAN...
PATA ぱた
PATA (STEP) ぱた
GRAND-PA
!
...
I'LL GO HEAT IT UP.
...YOUR MOTHER...
...MADE YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH FOR DINNER TODAY.


HEY, SHOU, AREN'T YOU GONNA PUT SAUCE ON IT LIKE YOU USUALLY DO?
NAH... I WANT TO TASTE MOM'S COOKING.
EAT UP.

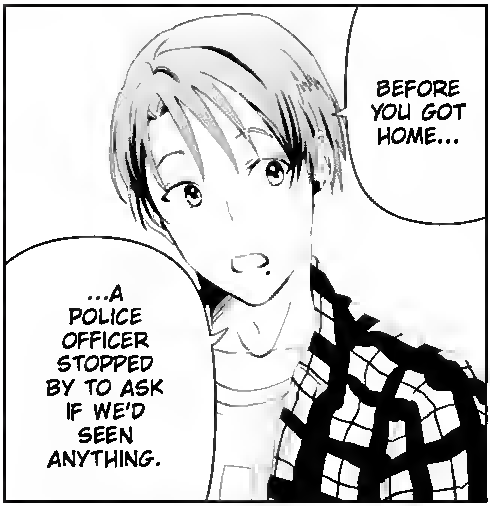

HASHI (GRAB)
はし


...THANKS FOR THE FOOD.


OH YEAH, ABOUT THAT MURDER...
BIKUN (FLINCH)
ヒクン




LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN'T FIND ANY WITNESSES.

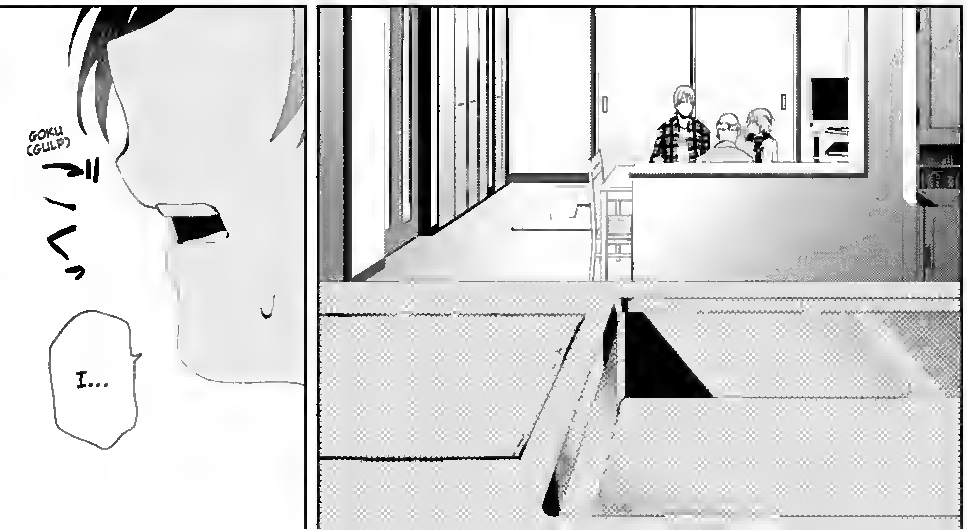

BEFORE YOU GOT HOME...
...A POLICE OFFICER STOPPED BY TO ASK IF WE'D SEEN ANYTHING.


AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHO THE VICTIM WAS EITHER.
ONE OF MY FRIENDS WAS SAYING IT WAS REALLY CREEPY.

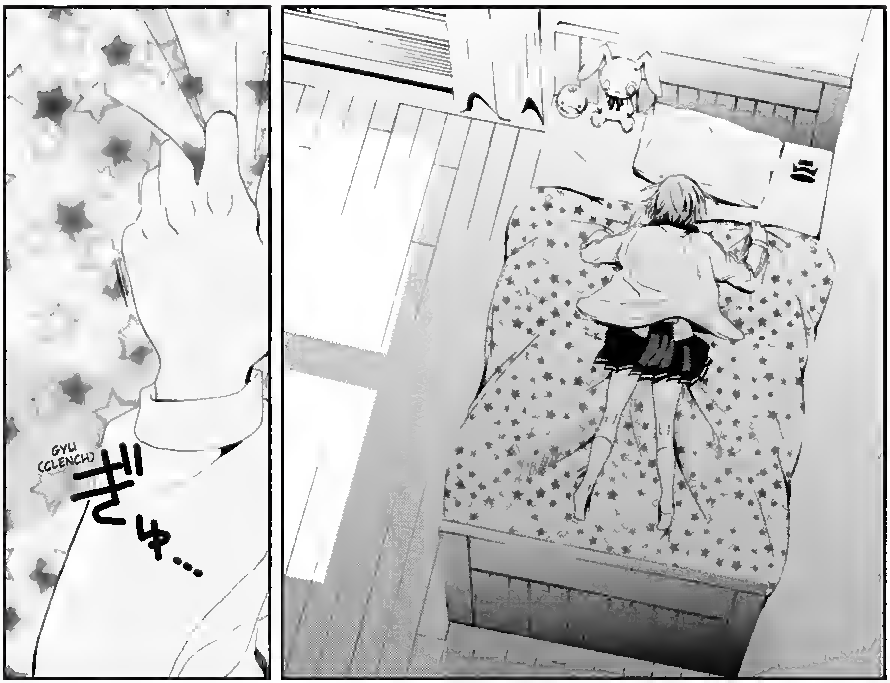

?
HEY, SHOU.

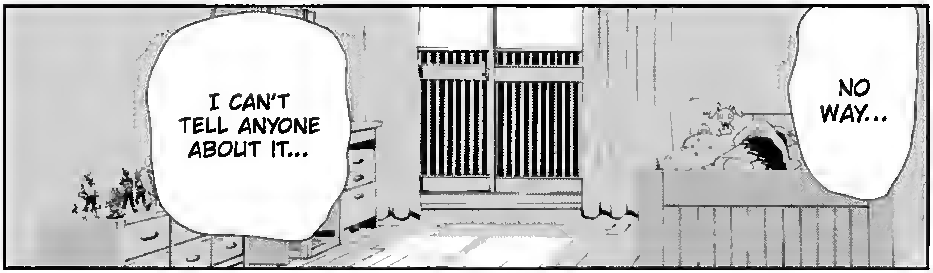

...


HE SAID "I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND."
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, DO YOU?


GOKU (GULP)
I...


...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
HEY, YOU HARDLY ATE ANYTHING.
KACHA (CLATTER)
SHOU?
I'LL EAT THE REST IN THE MORNING.
SUTA (STEP)
SUTA
GATA (CLATTER)
I'M DONE.
!
KACHA
KACHA
PATAN (SHUT)


GYU
CCLENCH!
ぎゅ…


I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT...
NO WAY...


KACHA
カチャ
I CAN'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING WHEN IT COMES TO MYSELF...
"WHEN YOU CAN'T MAKE IT, YOU HAVE TO SAY SO!"


MR. HERO...
I KNOW ABOUT THE MURDER...
I KNOW EVERY-THING...
HE WAS A NICE GUY WHO SAVED ME...
...WHEN I WAS IN DANGER.
THE GUY WHO WAS KILLED WAS A TRAITOROUS MAGICIAN.
...AND THE GUY WHO KILLED HIM...
"MR. HERO," THE OWNER OF THESE GLASSES.

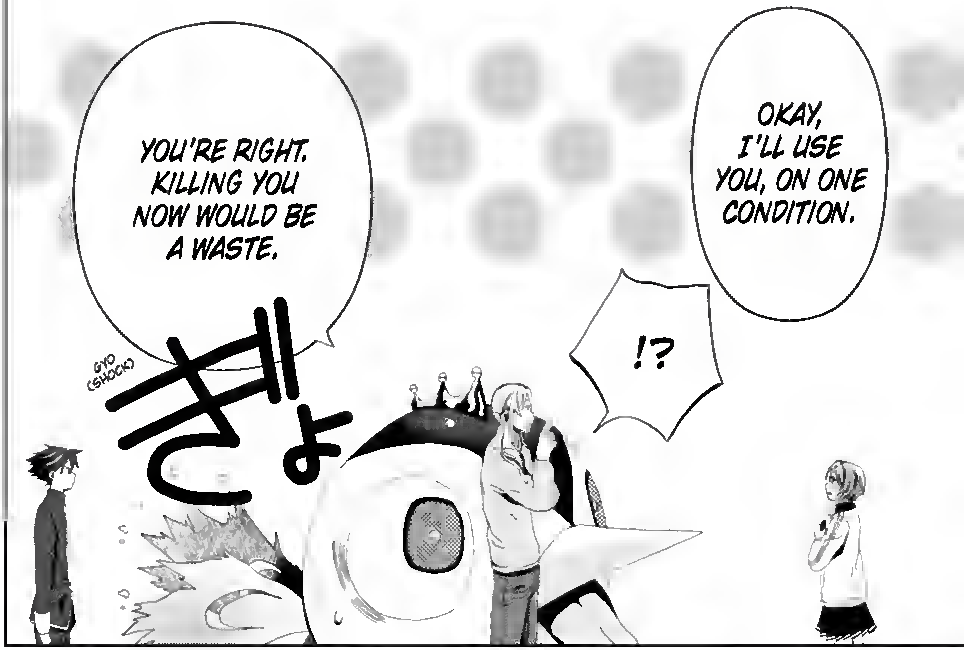

...SAID HIMSELF THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY EMOTIONS.
THE CREEPY, DESPICABLE MAGICIAN BOY...
I KILLED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS MY FRIEND.
...OUKA NAMAE.
BAFU (FLUMP)
AND TODAY...

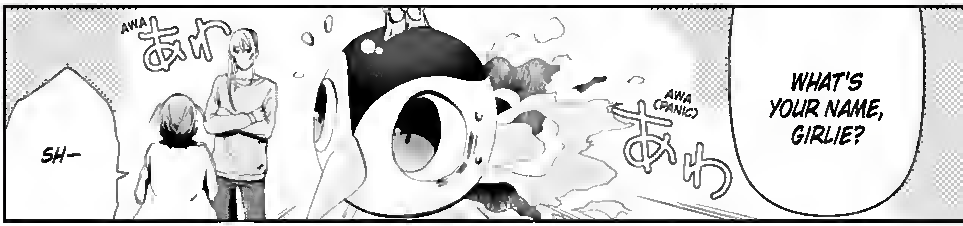

NAMAE WANTS TO KILL HIS FRIENDS...
...SO IF THEY DIDN'T KILL ME, I'D BECOME...
...I MADE A PROMISE TO HIM AND HIS MASTER.
YOU'LL BE HIS FRIEND, GIRLIE...?


IS THAT SO MUCH BETTER...
...THAN JUST KILLING YOU NOW AND FILLING UP THIS GUY'S STOMACH?
POTA (DRIP)
GU (CLENCH)
...YEAH.
YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE IT WHEN HE KILLS PEOPLE, RIGHT?
THEN I'LL BE HIS "BAIT."


I'LL COME SEE HIM EVERY DAY AND TALK TO HIM.
AND I'LL DEFINITELY BE HIS FRIEND!
IF I BECOME HIS FRIEND...
...HE'LL TRY TO KILL ME...
...BUT TO YOU, I'M SOMEONE WHO'S OKAY TO KILL.
SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO COME STOP HIM FROM DOING IT, WILL YOU?
AND HE'LL LIKE MAKING A FRIEND THAT HE CAN GO AFTER WITHOUT GETTING STOPPED TOO.
BESIDES, THESE WILL PROTECT ME LIKE THEY DID EARLIER...
FURU (TREMBLE)
FURU
...SO I CAN STAND UP TO HIM...
SO... UM...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER...
...TO USE ME INSTEAD OF KILLING ME RIGHT AWAY?


IT'S PRETTY MESSED UP, BUT...
...
ALL HIS BREAKING THE RULES WAS STARTING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ME.
AND WITH THAT CHARM HELPING YOU OUT..
...IT'S EVERY-THING I COULD ASK FOR...
...
YEAH.
...IT'S NOT BAD.
HMM. WHAT TO DO...?
GU CUGH


OKAY, I'LL USE YOU, ON ONE CONDITION.
!?
YOU'RE RIGHT. KILLING YOU NOW WOULD BE A WASTE.
GYO (SHOCK)
きょ

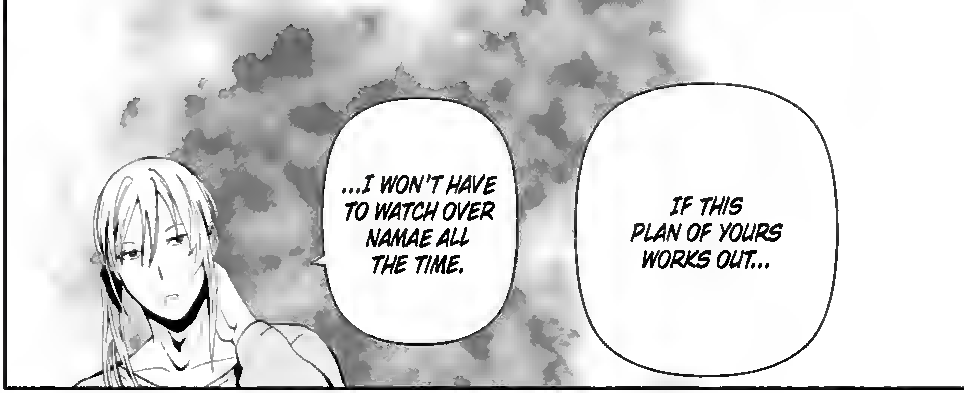

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, GIRLIE?
AWA (PANIC)
あわ
AWA
あわ
SH—


GYU (CLENCH)
きゅ…
SHOU TAKAHATA…
OKAY. HE'S…
…OUKA NAMAE. I'M TEACHING HIM MAGIC.
MU (HMPH)
むっ


I DON'T THINK THIS BENEFITS ME EITHER.
SENSEI...
DOSU
YOU THINK YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANYTHING OUT OF THIS?
HUH?
DOSU (STAB)
THAT HURTS!
AND THIS IS LEVI.
HE'S MY FAMILIAR...
...I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HALF-DEAD BEFORE I WROTE IN THAT NOTEBOOK
IF THEY COULD...
NOT JUST ANYONE CAN BE DEAR TO ME
GIRLIE.
!
BIKU (FLINCH)
I SAID THERE WOULD BE A CONDITION.
—SO HE REALLY DOESN'T GET IT
BOSO (WHISPER)
...HUH?

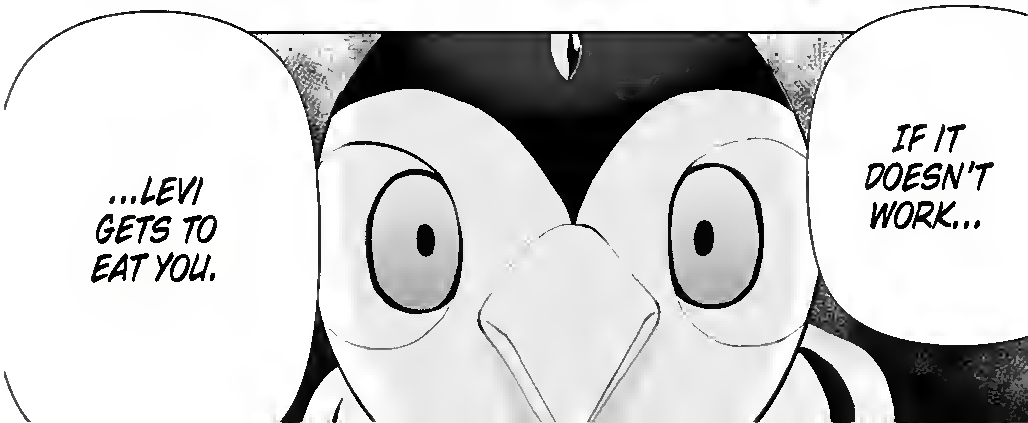

ONE DAY.
IF I DON'T SEE SIGNS TOMORROW THAT YOU CAN BE FRIENDS WITH NAMAE...
...I'M GOING TO FEED YOU TO LEVI.
THERE'S NO POINT IN THIS DEAL...
...IF YOU AREN'T A SUITABLE PLAYTHING FOR NAMAE.
IF WE DON'T HURRY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO BLAME YOUR DEATH ON THE TRAITOR ANYMORE.
I HAVE A BUNCH OF PLANS.


HUH?
I'LL SEND NAMAE TO GET YOU TOMORROW MORNING AT SEVEN.
OUR APARTMENT WILL DO FOR THE LOCATION.
THAT'S MOST CONVENIENT.
I KNOW YOUR NAME AND WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.
I CAN EASILY FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
RUNNING OR ASKING SOMEONE FOR HELP IS USELESS, YOU KNOW.

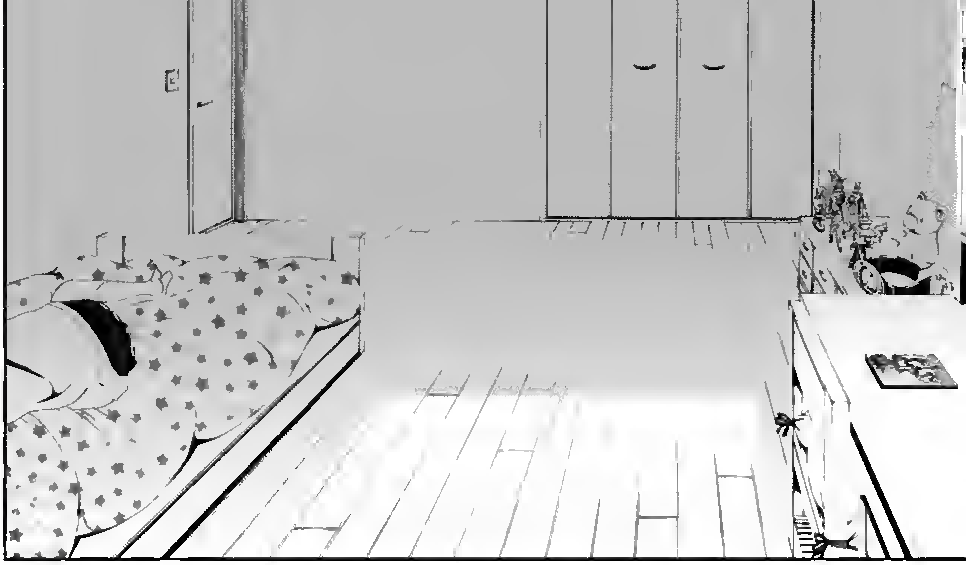

IF THIS PLAN OF YOURS WORKS OUT...
...I WON'T HAVE TO WATCH OVER NAMAE ALL THE TIME.

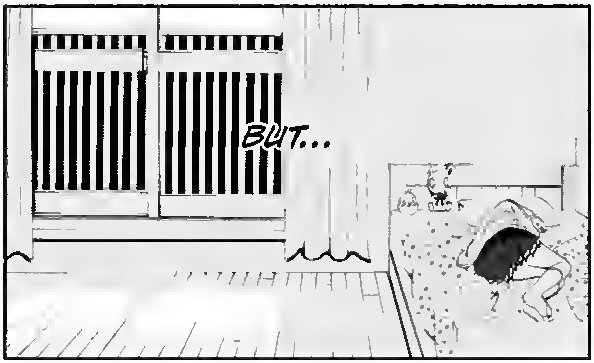

HE'LL GET HIMSELF A FRIEND TO LET HIM FEEL SOMETHING WITHOUT ANYONE INTERFERING.


AND YOU...
...WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE UNTIL HE KILLS YOU.

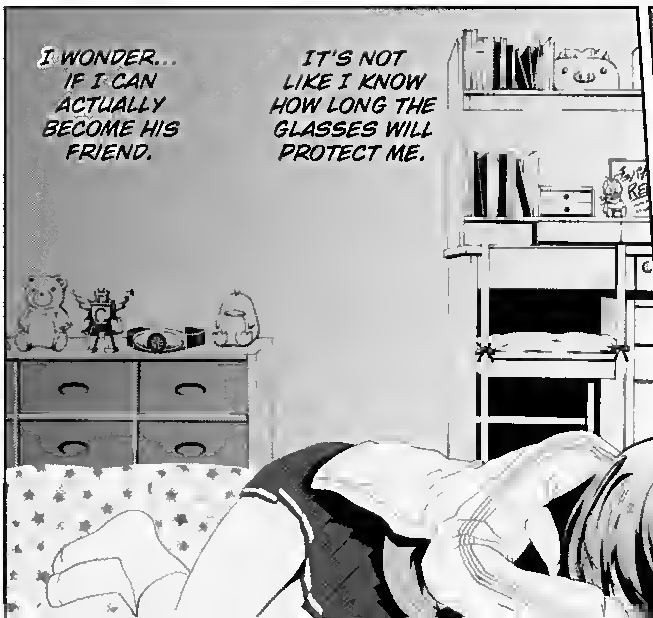

IF IT DOESN'T WORK...
...LEVI GETS TO EAT YOU.

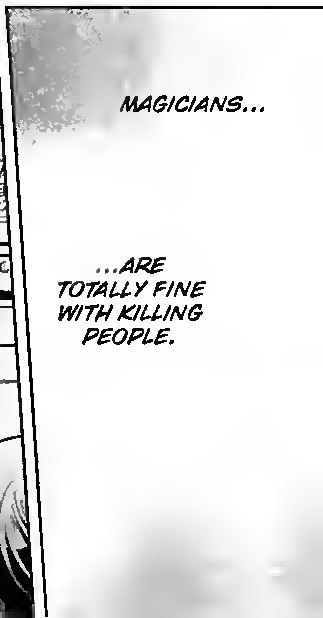

YOU CAN GO HOME FOR NOW.
I'LL AT LEAST GIVE YOU SOME TIME TO PREPARE.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
JI (STARE)
PETA (SLUMP)

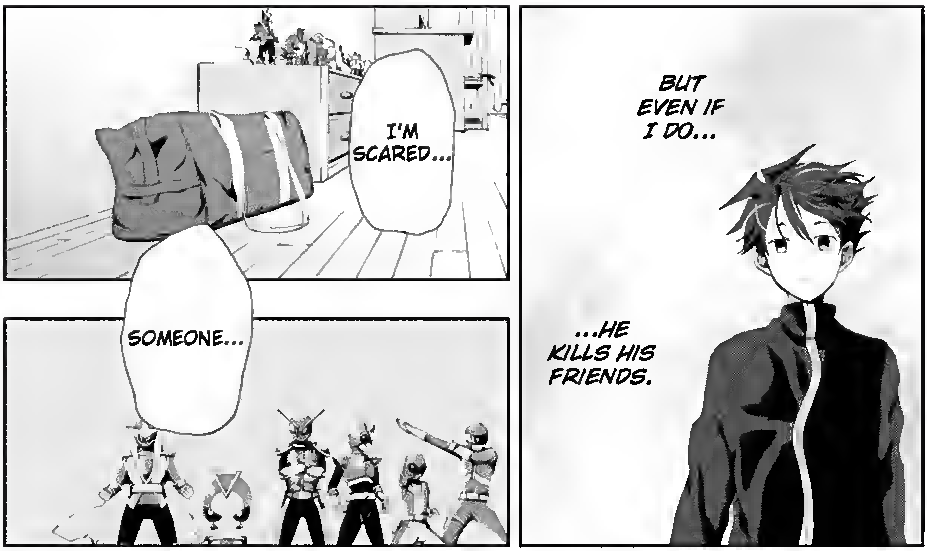



BUT...


I WASN'T REALLY THINKING AT THE TIME.
I WAS JUST DESPERATE TO FIND A WAY TO NOT GET MYSELF KILLED.


I WONDER... IF I CAN ACTUALLY BECOME HIS FRIEND.
IT'S NOT LIKE I KNOW HOW LONG THE GLASSES WILL PROTECT ME.

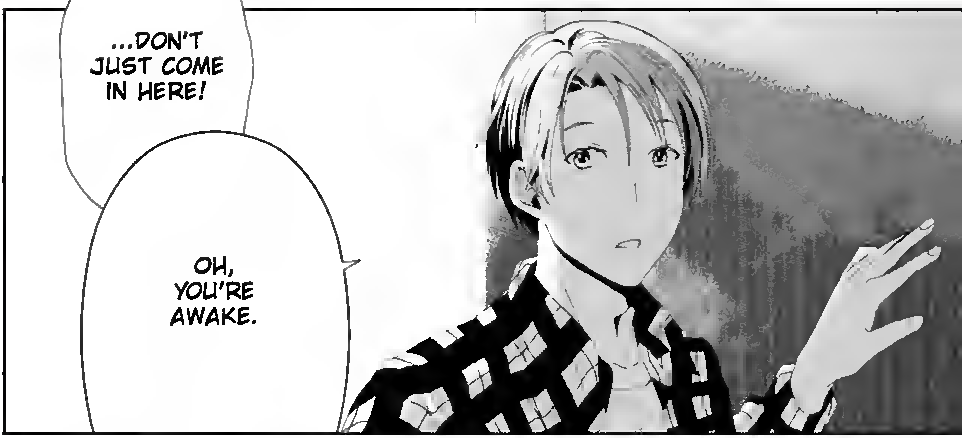

MAGICIANS...
...ARE TOTALLY FINE WITH KILLING PEOPLE.


I'M SCARED...
SOMEONE...
BUT EVEN IF I DO...
...HE KILLS HIS FRIENDS.




ANYONE...
...HELP ME...!


GACHA (KA-CHAK)
BA (SIT UP)
YOU ASLEEP?
HUH?
HEY...
→KNOCK KNOCK←
!
SHOU?

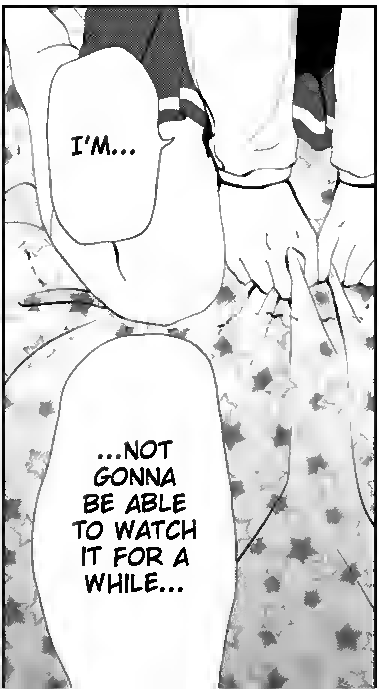

...DON'T JUST COME IN HERE!
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.


CHUPACA-BRA RED'S SPECIAL ATTACK WAS PRETTY SWEET, WASN'T IT!?
OH!
PAA (SHINE)
WHAT'D YOU THINK!?
HMM.
IT'S ON MY DESK... SO GO AHEAD AND TAKE IT.
YOU'VE HAD IT FOREVER.
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO RETURN THE UMA RANGERS DVD THAT YOU BORROWED, DIDN'T YOU?
SUTA (STEP)
SUTA


HUH?
...I DIDN'T WATCH IT.

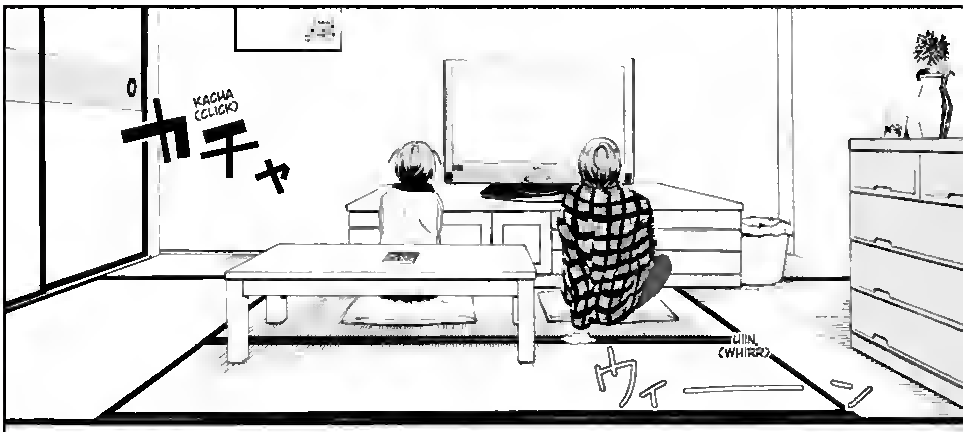

WHY NOT?
YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK AFTER YOU'VE WATCHED IT!


...AND I DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP IT ALL THAT TIME.

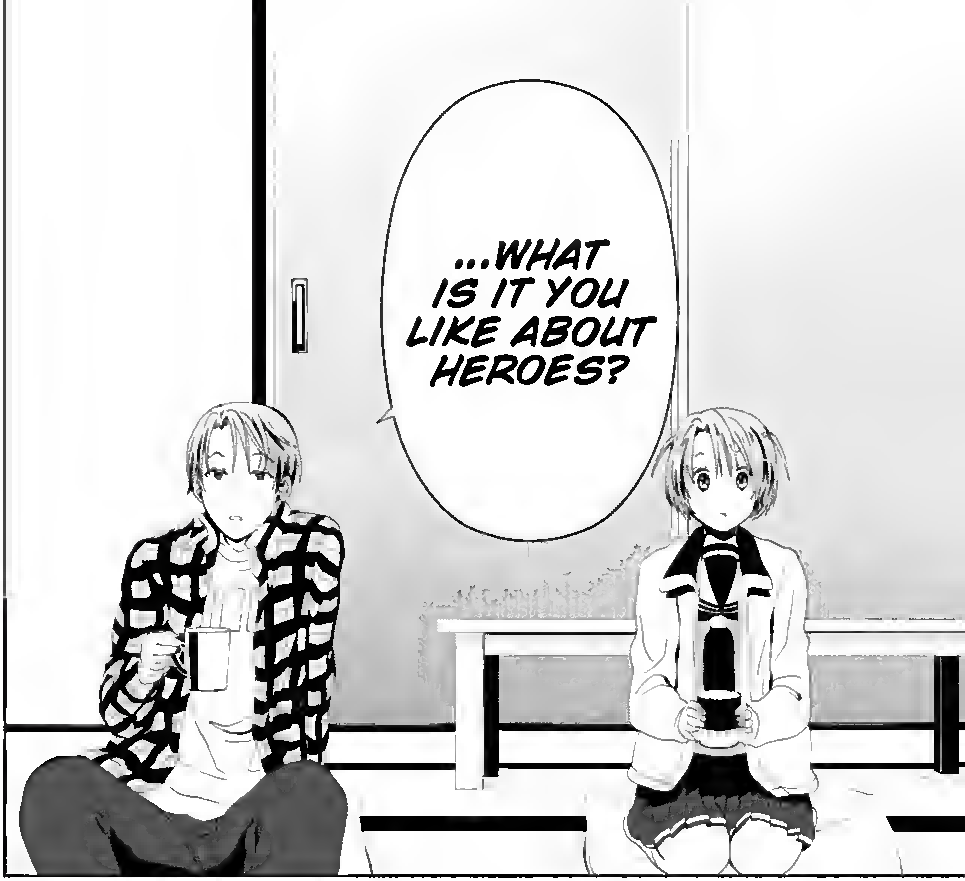

I'M...
...NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO WATCH IT FOR A WHILE...

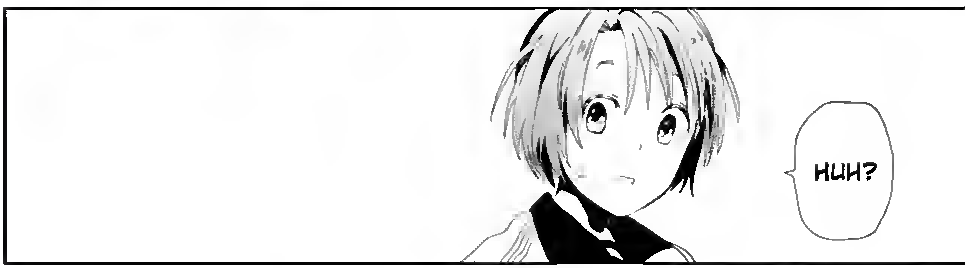

WEREN'T YOU TALKING ABOUT HOW BUSY YOU'VE BEEN WITH YOUR REPORT LATELY?
NEVER MIND THAT!
TON
TON
TON (THUD)
HUH?
WE'RE GONNA WATCH IT!
RIGHT NOW!


HOT COCOA'S GOOD, RIGHT?
OH, YEAH...
HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DRINK?
CHON (PLOP)
...

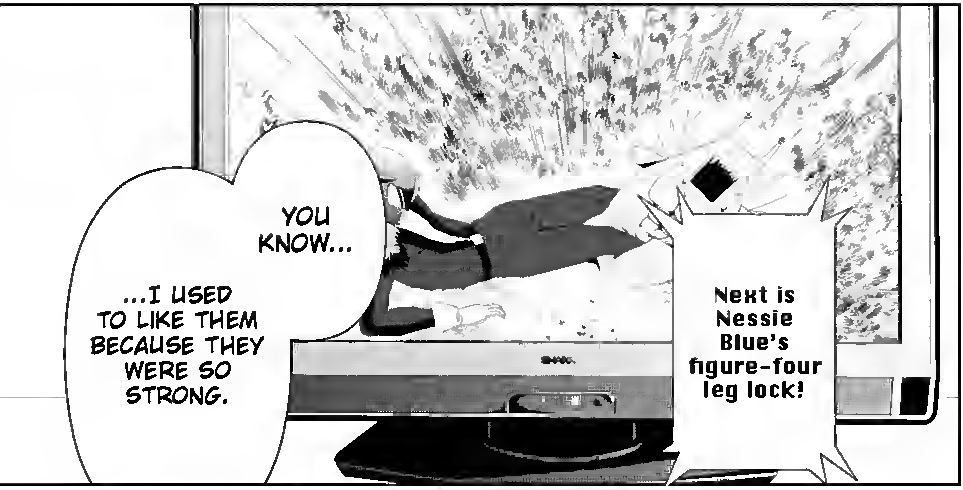

KACHA (CLICK)
カチャ
WIIN (WHIRR)
ウィーン


...be-
yoo-
oond!
Go
forth,
to great
unknown
...
UMA
Rangers!
Go! Go!
Doo
dee
doo.
Dee
do, dee
doo!
The UMR
Rangers,
defenders
of justice,
have arrived!
Some-
one,
help!
Kyaa!
KYUU
(GRIP)
HEY,
SHOU...
Never
fear! We
heroes
will save
you!

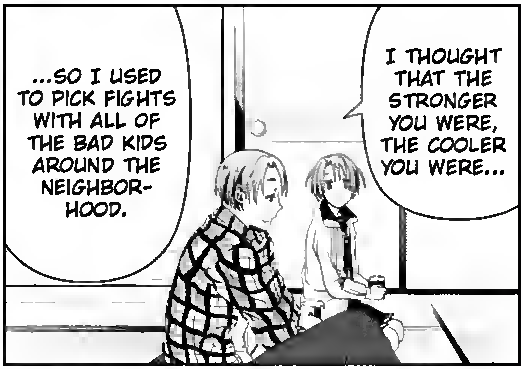

...WHAT IS IT YOU LIKE ABOUT HEROES?


HUH?

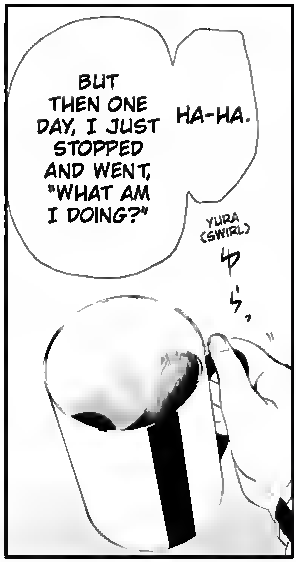

WH-WHAT...? THAT'S KINDA SUDDEN.

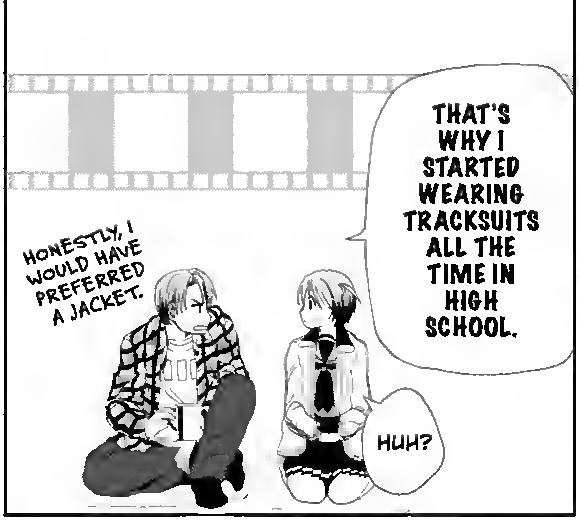

YOU KNOW...
...I USED TO LIKE THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE SO STRONG.
Next is Nessie Blue's figure-four leg lock!

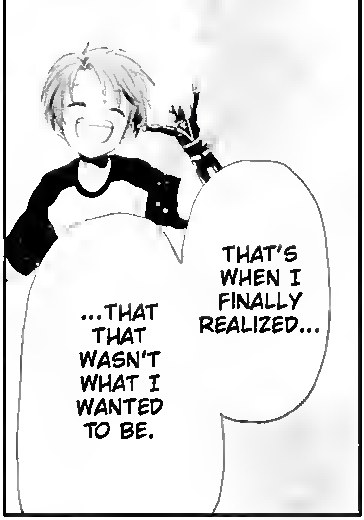

I REMEMBER... YOU WERE REALLY SCARY IN JUNIOR HIGH.


...SO I USED TO PICK FIGHTS WITH ALL OF THE BAD KIDS AROUND THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
I THOUGHT THAT THE STRONGER YOU WERE, THE COOLER YOU WERE...


"...HUH?
"IT'S LIKE I'M THE BAD GUY."
I WAS FIGHTING ALL THE TIME, HITTING PEOPLE AND MAKING MOM CRY, AND I WAS LIKE...


BUT THEN ONE DAY, I JUST STOPPED AND WENT, "WHAT AM I DOING?"
HA-HA.
YURA (SWIRL)


HONESTLY, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A JACKET.
THAT'S WHY I STARTED WEARING TRACKSUITS ALL THE TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HUH?


...THAT THAT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED TO BE.
THAT'S WHEN I FINALLY REALIZED...


Thank you, UMA Rangers!
Are you all right?
...WHENEVER I FOUGHT.
IT WAS TO REMIND ME OF THE HEROES THAT I LOVED SO MUCH...


NIYA GRIND
HAA...
?

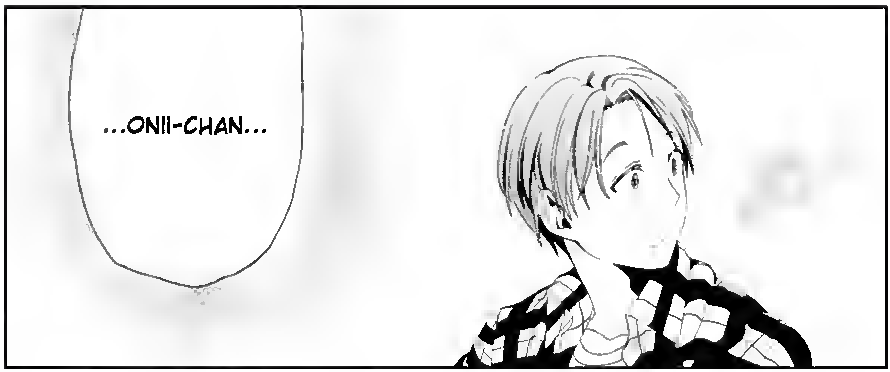

ONII-CHAN...
AND AFTER THAT, I STOPPED FIGHTING EXCEPT TO SAVE SOMEONE.


HA (GASP)
BUT I WAS REALLY SURPRISED ...
...WHEN YOU STARTED IMITATING ME AND WEARING A TRACKSUIT TOO.
AWA (PANIC)
あわ
AWA
あわ
THIS IS JUST...!
...
KAAAA (BLUSH)
カアアア
HEY, WHAT THE —?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BUGGING YOU RIGHT NOW.
BOSA (MESSY)
ボサ
BOSA
ボサ
AH!
WASHA
わしゃ
WASHA (RUFFLE)
わしゃ


WHY ARE YOU WEARING A TRACK-SUIT?


I...

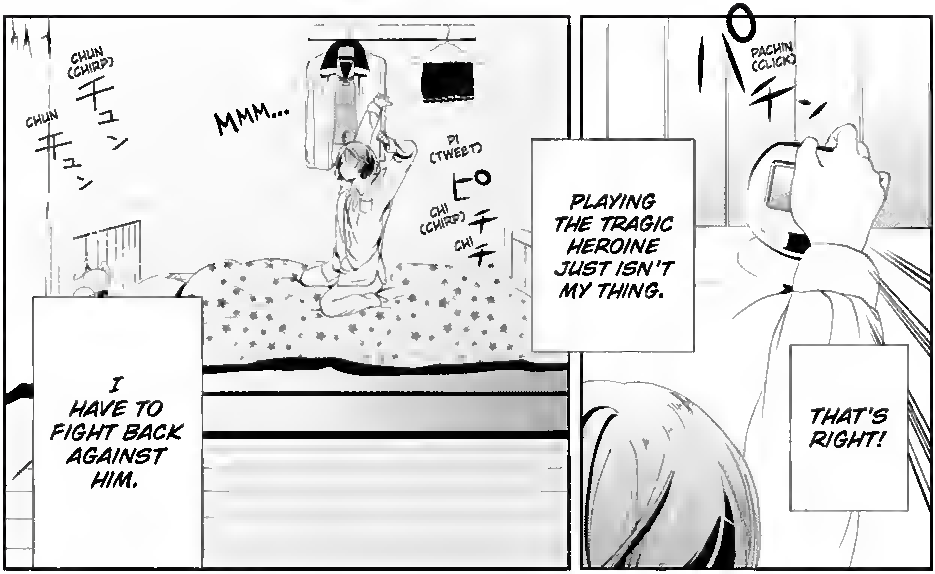



...ONII-CHAN...

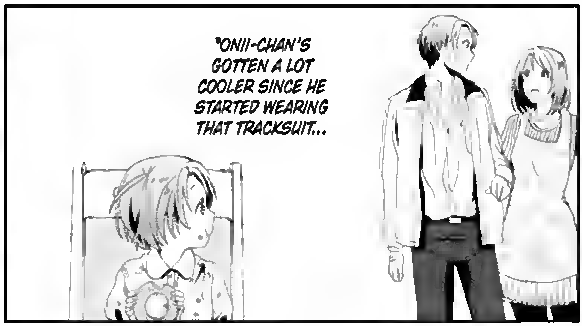

I REALLY WILL WATCH IT BEFORE I GIVE IT BACK.

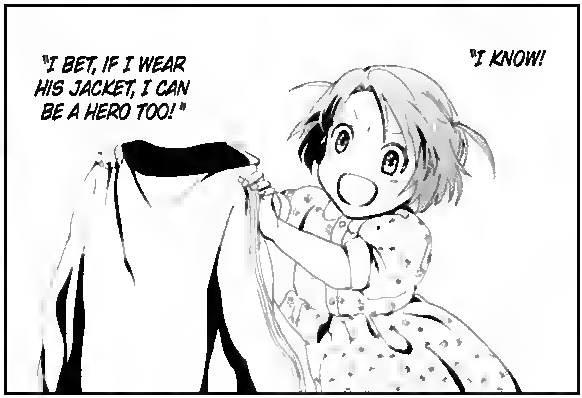

...CAN I BORROW YOUR UMA RANGERS DVD?
SURE...
?
SUKU (RISE)


...PREFERRED THE HEROES TO THE HEROINES...
...SHE'S ALWAYS...
PI (BEEP)
PATA
PATA (PATTER)

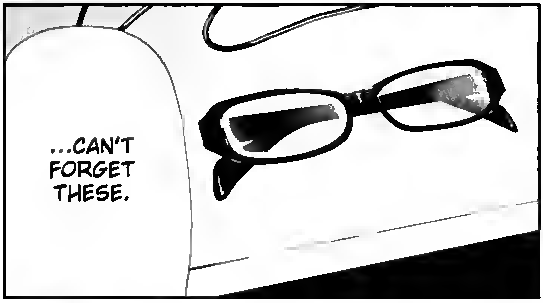

CHUN (CHIRP)
チュン
CHUN
チュン
MMM...
PI (TWEET)
ピ
CHI (CHIRP)
チ
CHI
チ
I HAVE TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST HIM.
PACHIN (CLICK)
パチン
PLAYING THE TRAGIC HEROINE JUST ISN'T MY THING.
THAT'S RIGHT!


AH HA HA.
I...


"ONII-CHAN'S GOTTEN A LOT COOLER SINCE HE STARTED WEARING THAT TRACKSUIT..."

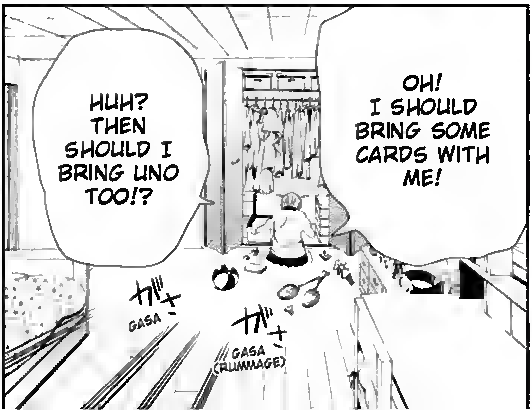

"I BET, IF I WEAR HIS JACKET, I CAN BE A HERO TOO!"
"I KNOW!"

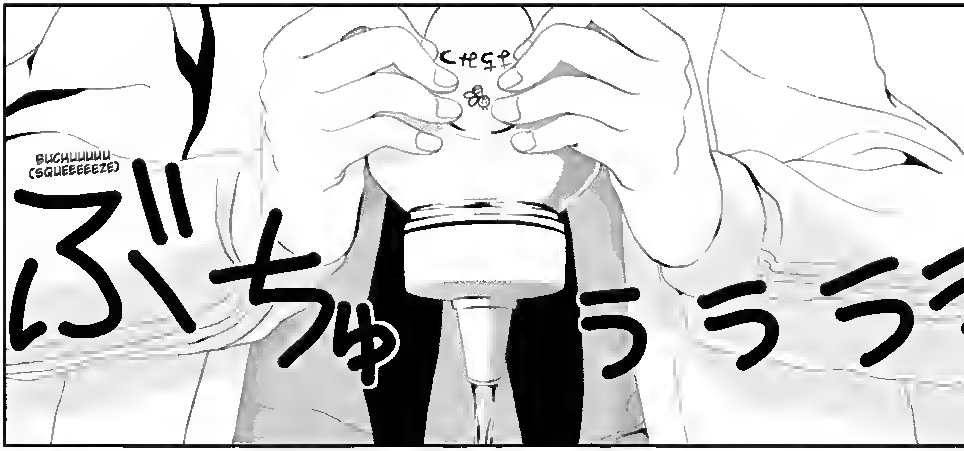

...WANTED TO BE A HERO.
BASA (WISH)


...CAN'T FORGET THESE.

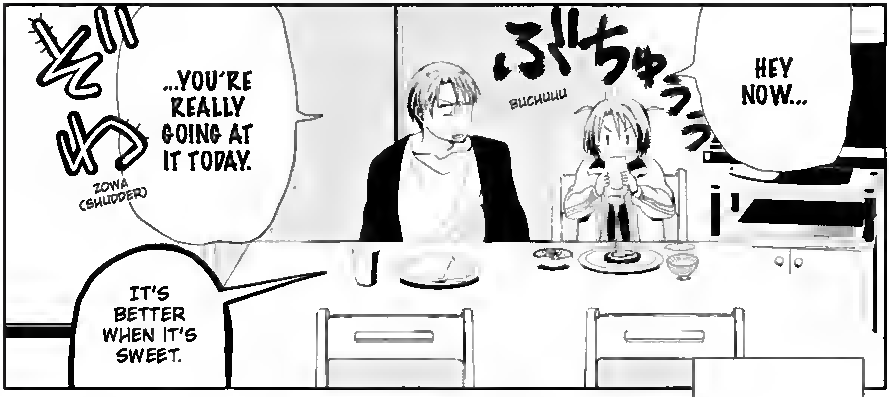

!


GU (CLENCH)
I SAID I'D BE HIS FRIEND, SO WE HAVE TO PLAY SOME GAMES TOGETHER...
YEAH!


HUH? THEN SHOULD I BRING UNO TOO!?
OH! I SHOULD BRING SOME CARDS WITH ME!
GASA
GASA (RUMMAGE)

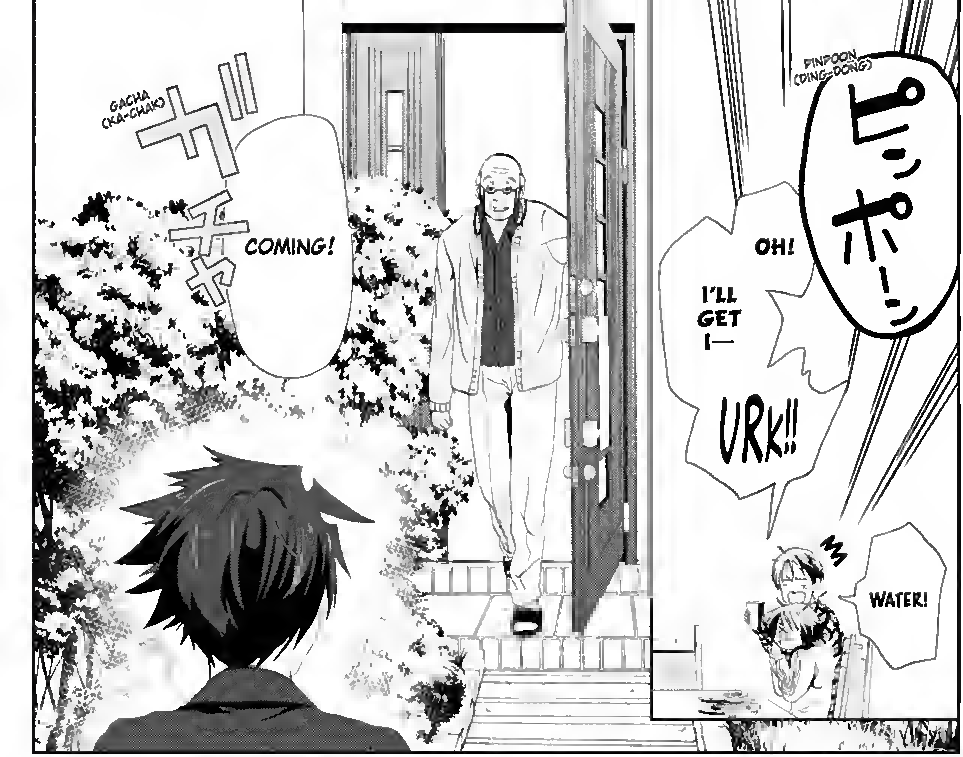


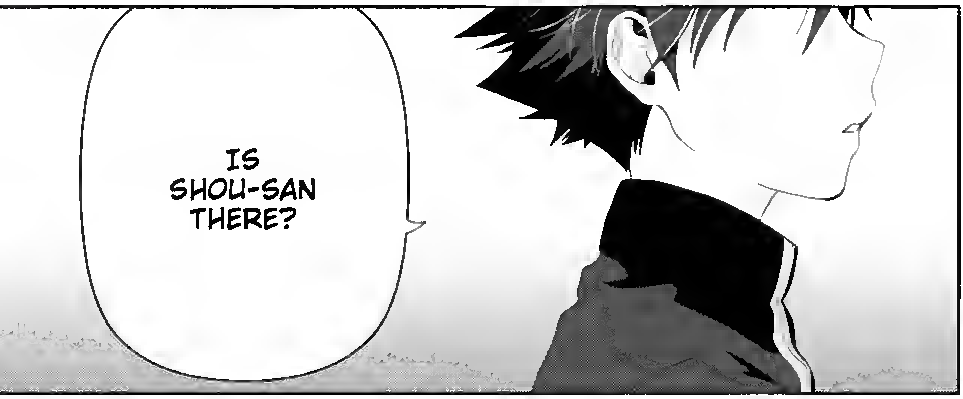
BOTTLE: HONEY



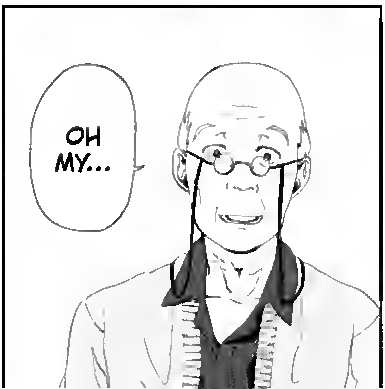





GACHA (KA-CHAK)
COMING!
PINPOON (DING-DONG)
OH!
I'LL GET I—
URK!!
WATER!


IS SHOU-SAN THERE?


SHOU-CHAN, YOUR FRIEND IS HERE!
.....


OH MY...


カチャ
GACHA (CHUT)
...I'M READY.
.....
OKAY...


...
LET'S GO.

When a Magician's Pupil Smiles


CHAPTER 6 "I HATE YOU"
KYORO
きょろ
HUH...? SPIRITS?
KYORO (GLANCE)
...OH.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT?
I HAVE A BARRIER UP, SO NORMALS CAN'T SEE THE SPIRITS EVEN WHEN THEY'RE IN THE ROOM.
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
?
TRY TO AVOID THE SPIRITS WHEN YOU COME THROUGH.
ガチャ
GACHA (SHUT)
!
PACHIN (SNAP)


NUU (LOOM)


KYAA!
DOSA (THUD)
?
WARA (CHATTER)


PI (TWEET)
CHI
CHI (CHIRP)
CHUN (CHIRP)
CHUN
OKAY...
...LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSI-NESS.
IS THAT SO?
AND IT WAS CUTE!
I ONLY SAW IT JUST A LITTLE BIT WHEN WE WERE TALKING AND THEN WHEN IT BROUGHT ME THE GLASSES!
FUYO
FUYO (FLOAT)
IS IT REALLY THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK? YOU SAW THE TRAITOR'S SPIRIT, DIDN'T YOU?

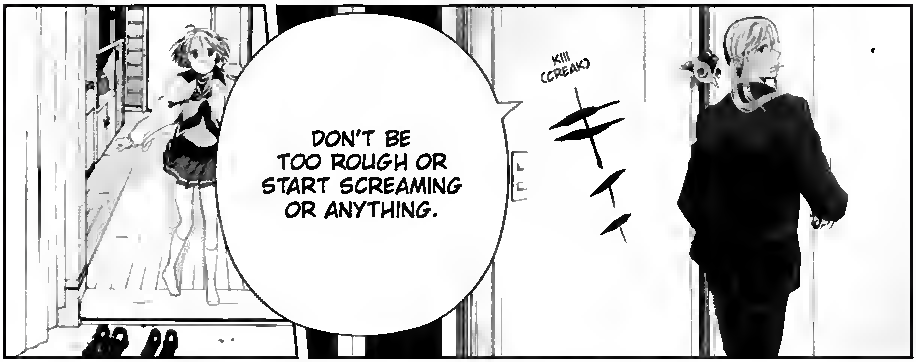

TODAY IS A TEST TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF YOU BECOMING NAMAE'S FRIEND.
GOKU (GULP)
YOU'RE TO STAY HERE IN THIS APARTMENT.
THE MAIN REASON FOR THAT...
...IS SO YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY.
!?
THE SPIRITS WILL BE HERE THROUGHOUT THE TEST TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
FUYO
FUYO
SO DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.
NII (GRIND)
EEK!


SENSEI, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I DO THE HOUSEWORK LIKE USUAL?
SU (RAISE)
.....
SURE.
!
WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR PASSING...?
...U-UM!
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO SHOW WE CAN BE FRIENDS...?
I'LL DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO, WHETHER IT'S HOLDING HIS HAND OR WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM!
WELL... I HAVEN'T REALLY DECIDED EXACTLY WHAT...
...GONNA GET HARDER THE MORE THINGS I HAVE TO DO...
THIS TEST IS PROBABLY ...
DO (BA-THUMP)
DO
GU (GULP)


TONIGHT, AT MIDNIGHT...
...I'LL LOOK AT HOW YOU'RE DOING AND MAKE MY CALL.
YOU PASS IF NAMAE WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND.

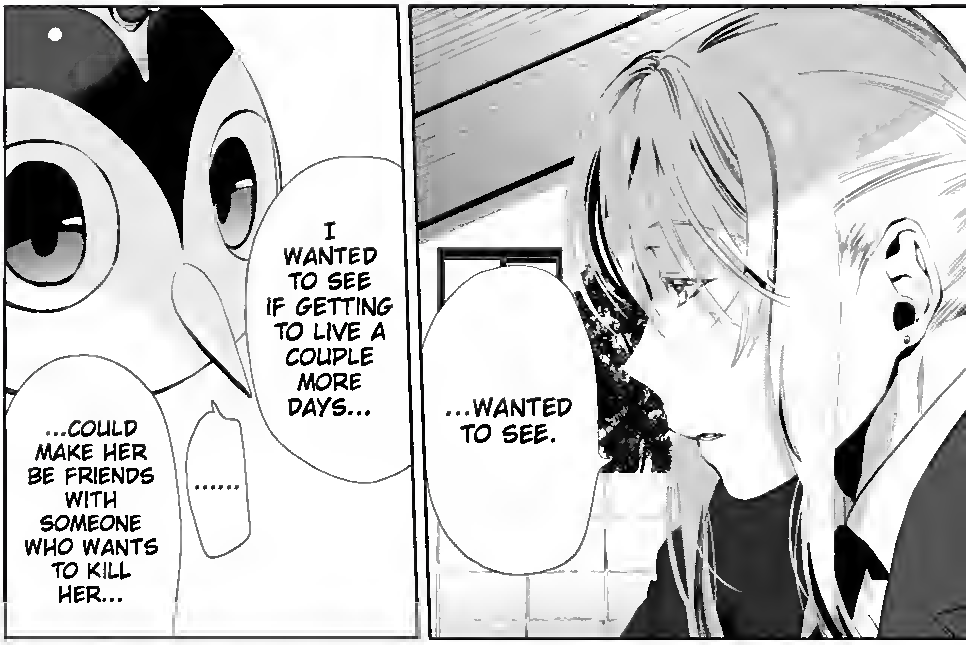

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
YOU'LL SEE HOW WE'RE DOING...? BUT THAT'S ALL YOUR OPINION!
SO... IT'S UP TO HOW NAMAE FEELS...!?
NEVER MIND THAT. THAT CRITERIA IS JUST WEIRD!

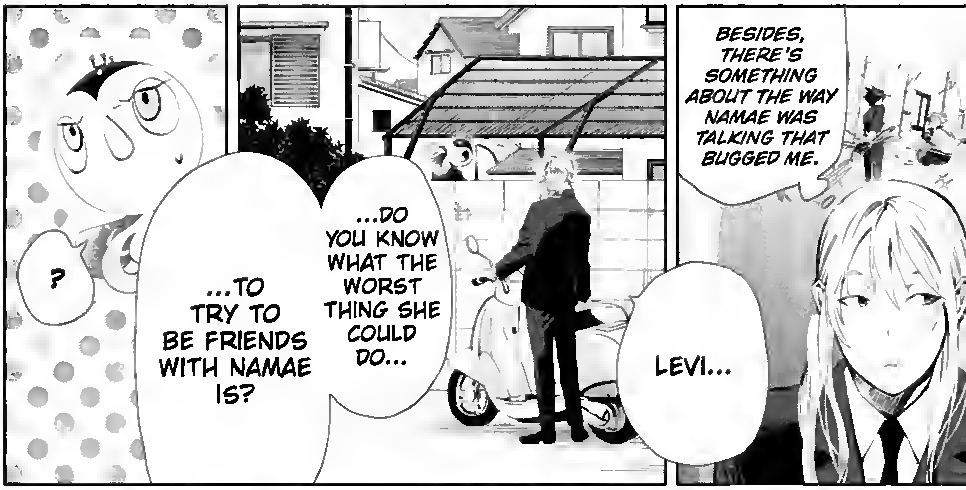

ANYWAY, JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
LEVI AND I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
HUH?
I'LL BE BACK BY MIDNIGHT.
W-WAIT!
...BUT—!
OH, AND ONE MORE THING.


DON'T BE TOO ROUGH OR START SCREAMING OR ANYTHING.
KII! (CREAK)

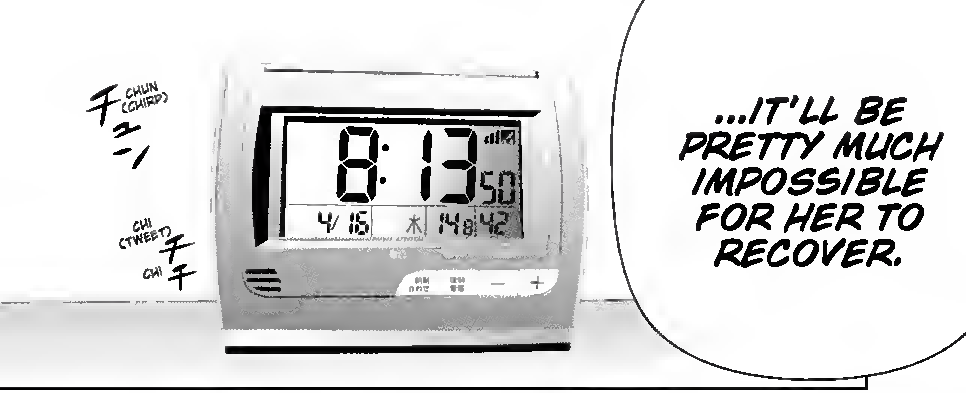

IT'S A HASSLE TO HAVE TO ERASE THE MEMORIES OF THE NEIGHBORS AFTER I KILL YOU.
BATAN (SHUT)


YOU LOOK PISSED, LEVI.
MUSU (GRRR)
チュン
CHUN (CHIRP)
チュン
CHUN
PI (TWEET)
ピ
チ
CHI (CHIRP)
CHI
ピ
PI
チ
CHI
チ
CHI
KA
カ
YOU DON'T THINK HER PLAN IS A GOOD ONE AT ALL?
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S NOT WORTH IT.
KA
カ
KA (CLACK)
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY I'M DOING SOMETHING SO TEDIOUS EITHER.
!?
I JUST...

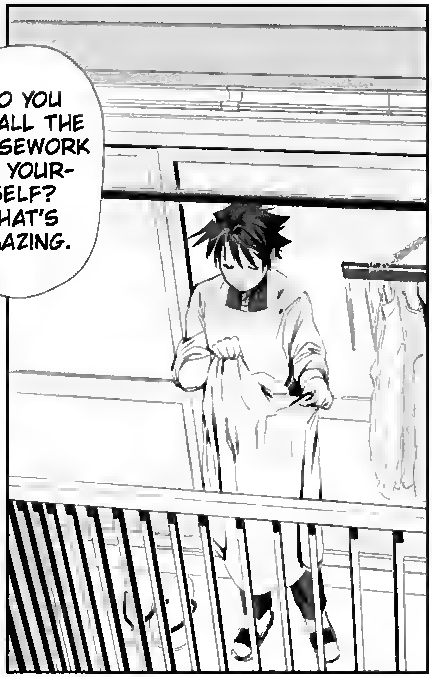

I WANTED TO SEE IF GETTING TO LIVE A COUPLE MORE DAYS...
.....
...COULD MAKE HER BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO KILL HER...
...WANTED TO SEE.


?
...TO TRY TO BE FRIENDS WITH NAMAE IS?
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST THING SHE COULD DO...
LEVI...
BESIDES, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY NAMAE WAS TALKING THAT BUGGED ME.


IF SHE DOES THAT...
?
IT'S TRYING TO MAKE HIM LIKE HER.

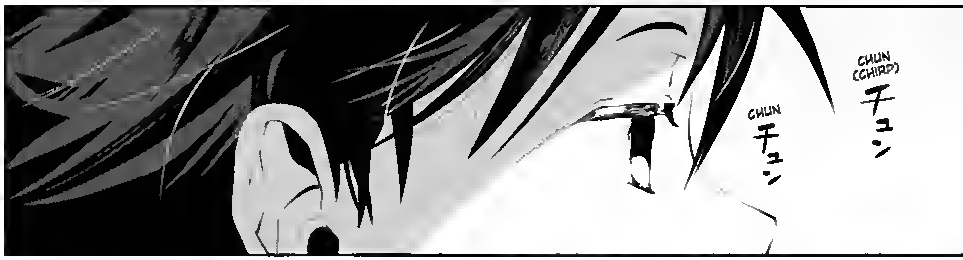

チュン CHUN (CHIRP)
8:13 50
4/15 木 14:42
CHI (TWEET) チ CHI チ
...IT'LL BE PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO RECOVER.

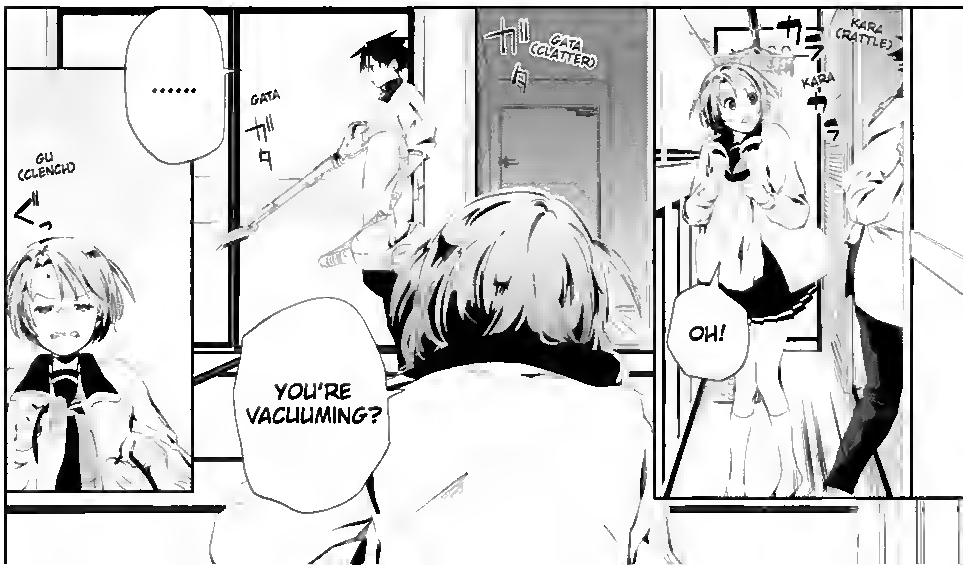

カラ KARA
カラ KARA (RATTLE)
I'LL HELP YOU HANG THEM UP.


SO YOU DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK BY YOURSELF? THAT'S AMAZING.


THERE!
チュン CHUN
チュン CHUN
I HELP MY MOM OUT SOMETIMES.


H-HOW'S THAT...
NIKOO (SMILE)
...NAMAE... KUN?


CHUN (CHIRP)
CHUN


.....
GU (CLENCH)
GATA
GATA (CLATTER)
KARA (RATTLE)
KARA
OH!
YOU'RE VACUUMING?


KYU (SQUEAK)
I...
...JUST KINDA GRABBED A RAG. IS THAT OKAY...?
CHI (TWEET)
PI (CHIRP)
I HAVE TO MAKE HIM WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH ME...
FUYOYO (FLOAT)
AND I HAVE TO MAKE HIM LIKE ME TO DO THAT...
UHN (GRRR)
I'M HERE AT A MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT. AT THEIR PLACE.
WHAT... AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW...?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT BEING NICE...
...HAS GOT TO BE BETTER THAN NOT DOING ANYTHING.


YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD COOK.
WOW! THAT LOOKS AMAZING!
チュン CHUN (CHIRP)
...
チュン CHUN
もぐ MOGU
もぐ MOGU (MUNCH)
UM, YOU KNOW —!
SA (FINISH)
MY MOM MADE LUNCH FOR ME.
IT'S REALLY GOOD, SO EAT UP!
HERE, HAVE SOME OMELET.


チュン
CHUN
チュン
CHUN
12:23
.....
ドクン
DOKUN
JUST DON'T IGNORE ME.
OTHERWISE...
I-I'LL JUST PUT IT HERE.
DO SOME-THING, ANY-THING...
ドクン
DOKUN (BA-THUMP)
JIWA (TEARS)
じわ
I'D EVEN PREFER IT IF IT BUGGED HIM.
I JUST DON'T KNOW.
...AND WHAT'S WRONG.
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT...
DOKUN
ドクン…


I'M SURE EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE.
I'LL TRY OUT THE GAMES I BROUGHT WITH ME THIS AFTER-NOON.

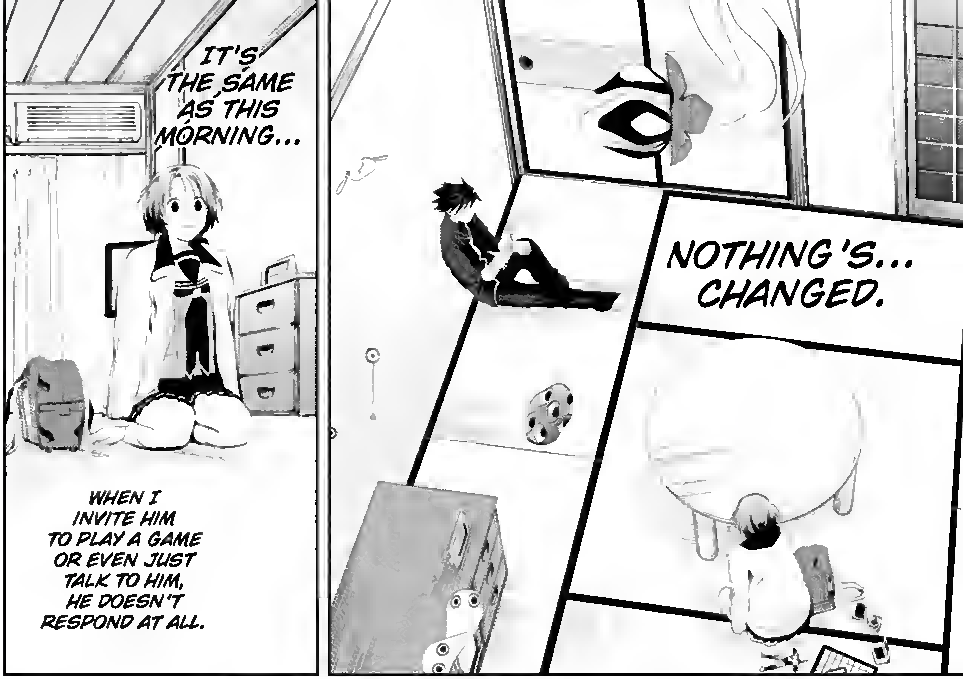

GOTTA CALM DOWN...! I STILL HAVE HALF A DAY TO GO.
BLIN
BLIN (SHAKE)


THANKS FOR THE FOOD.




KACHA
KACHA (CLINK)


ジジ…
(BZZ)
ジジ
GATAN
ガタン
GOTON
ゴトン
GATAN
(KA-CLACK)
GOTON
(KA-THUD)
22:50
30
4/16
14
37


IT'S THE SAME AS THIS MORNING...
WHEN I INVITE HIM TO PLAY A GAME OR EVEN JUST TALK TO HIM, HE DOESN'T RESPOND AT ALL.
NOTHING'S... CHANGED.


HE WAS TALKING THIS MORNING.
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT RITSU.
BUT I JUST MET HIM YESTER-DAY...
OH!
AND YESTERDAY...


NAMAE-KUN... ISN'T THIS KINDA WEIRD...!?
...!
SLI (GLIDE)


WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I CAN FEEL "SADNESS."
...I HAD TO LOSE SOMEONE DEAR TO ME
TO DO THAT
AND YESTERDAY, YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED TO KILL YOUR FRIENDS AND FEEL SAD.
YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH MR. HERO, WEREN'T YOU?
SO WHY WON'T YOU TRY TO GET ALONG WITH ME...!?
...MAKING FRIENDS IS A GOOD THING, ISN'T IT?
SO FOR YOU...


THIS TEST...
...WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU FROM THE START.
!?


...WHAT...
...DO YOU MEAN ...?


THE ENTIRE IDEA WAS STRANGE TO BEGIN WITH.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD BECOME MY FRIEND TO ATTRACT MY ATTENTION.
IF THAT WAS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE, I WOULD HAVE WORKED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
HOW-EVER...
?
...HOW IS ANYONE TO JUDGE WHETHER I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU?
HUH.....?
ESPECIALLY WHEN I CAN'T TELL MYSELF.


OUKA NAMAE DOES HAVE EMOTIONS.
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
BUT I CAN'T ACTUALLY FEEL THOSE EMOTIONS.
SOMETIMES, VERY RARELY, TEARS OR CERTAIN WORDS WILL JUST COME OUT.
BUT THE ONLY TIME I CAN FEEL "MY" EMOTIONS IS THE MOMENT WHEN I LOSE SOMEONE DEAR TO ME.
I TOLD YOU—
SO THIS TEST...
THAT'S WHY THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW WHETHER I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND...
...AND THUS ALLOW YOU TO KEEP ON LIVING.
I USUALLY DON'T HAVE ANY EMOTIONS.
SENSEI IS A FOOL, SO HE PROBABLY JUST DIDN'T REALIZE THAT.
...WAS POINTLESS FROM THE START!?
...HOWEVER...


...THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO I WANTED TO TRY KILLING...
...DESPITE ALL THAT.
THOSE FRIENDS DIDN'T DO IT BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO HURT ME...
...OR BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS OR TEACHERS TOLD THEM TO OR THEY FELT SORRY FOR ME.
...
I FELT SOMETHING IN THAT...
BUT YOU AREN'T LIKE THEM.
...
THEY JUST WANTED...
...TO SPEND TIME WITH OUKA NAMAE.
I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOOD-BYE...
..YES.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!


YOU'RE NOT WORTH KILLING TO SEE IF IT HAPPENS.


SUTA
SUTA (STEP)
THIS IS WHAT "FRIENDSHIP" IS TO YOU, ISN'T IT?
RATAN (SHUT)
22:57 21
4/16 14 37


GACHA (KA-CHAK)
WELCOME BACK.
HMM?
WHERE'S THE GIRL?
GOOD JOB WITH WORK TODAY.
GUTSU (BUBBLE)
GUTSU
GUTSU
GUTSU
SHE'S IN THAT ROOM.


I NEVER REALLY WANTED TO BE HIS FRIEND.
...BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE.
I GOT CLOSE TO HIM...
I... LIED.
I CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND... WHAT HE'S SAYING.
"YOU'RE NOT WORTH KILLING TO SEE IF IT HAPPENS."
YEAH, HE'S RIGHT.

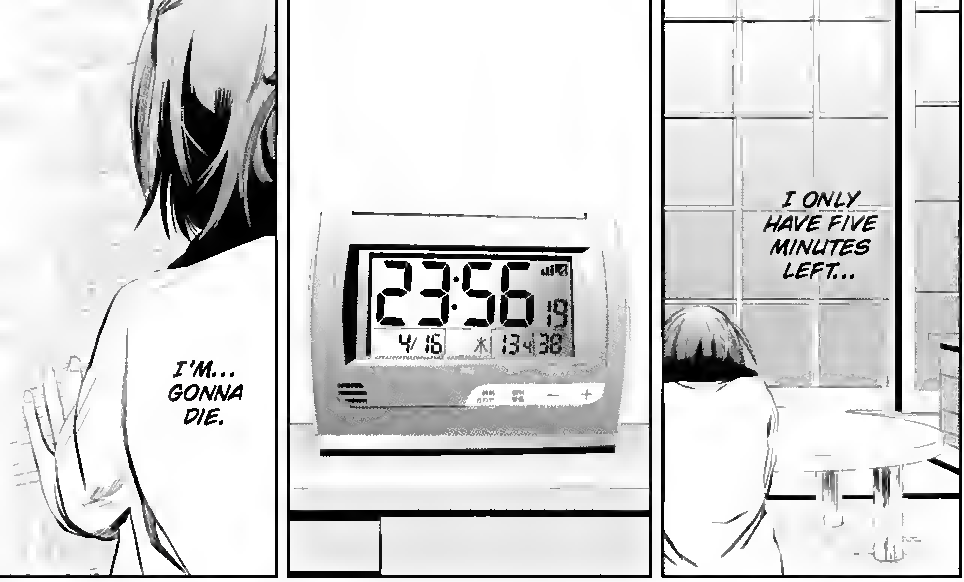






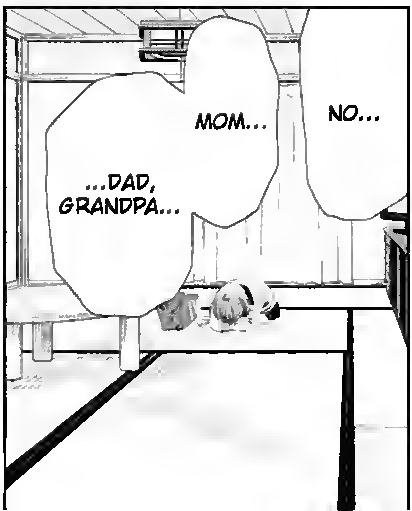
I CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH HIM...!




I'M... GONNA DIE.
23:56
4/15 木 13 43 38
I ONLY HAVE FIVE MINUTES LEFT...

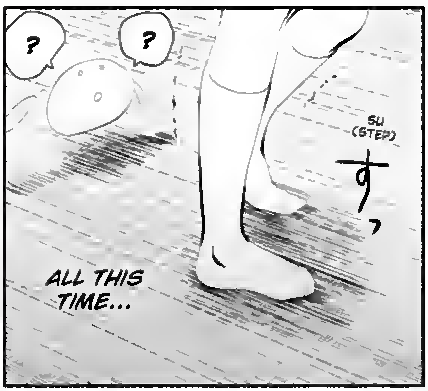
IT'S ALL... OVER.

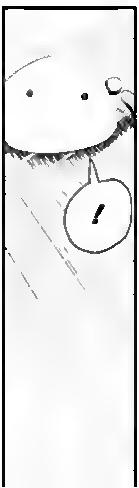

WHY ARE YOU WEARING A TRACK-SUIT?
...ONII-CHAN...
I PROMISED I'D WATCH THAT UMA RANGERS DVD...
I REALLY WILL WATCH IT BEFORE I GIVE IT BACK.

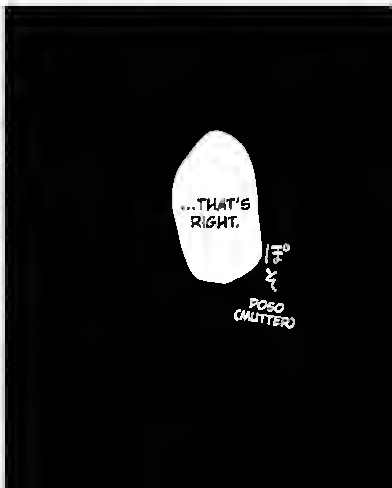

MOM...
NO...
...DAD, GRANDPA...


THINK... SUCKING UP TO HIM WON'T WORK ANYMORE... SO WHAT DO I DO!?
KATA (TREMBLE)
KATA (TREMBLE)
KATA (TREMBLE)
BA (WHIP)
NO! I CAN'T GIVE UP!

"THEY JUST WANTED TO SPEND TIME WITH OUKA NAMAE."


?
?
SU (STEP)
ALL THIS TIME...


!


...THAT'S RIGHT.
POSO (MUTTER)


...I KNEW EXACTLY...
...WHAT TO DO.
23:59
HEY...
...SHE'S NOT COMING IN HERE.
GUTSU (BUBBLE)
MAYBE SHE GAVE UP.
GUTSU
.....
GARA (CLATTER)
THIS TEST WAS POINTLESS. JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE CARE OF—
TA (THUD)
OH?
TA
?


GATSUN
(THWACK)


!?
WHOA...
...!

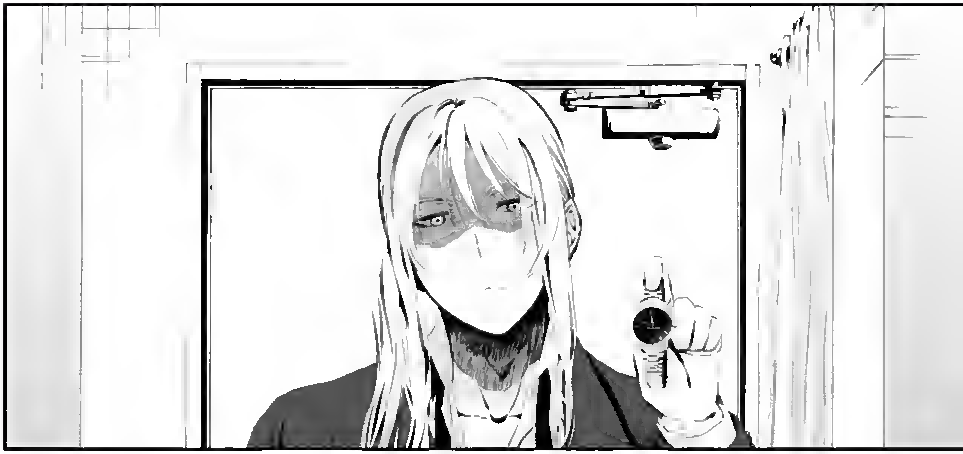

KARAN (CLATTER)
NAMAE ...
!?
??
DOSA! (THUD)
...I HATE YOU!!
I'M JUST GOING TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING I THINK ABOUT HIM.

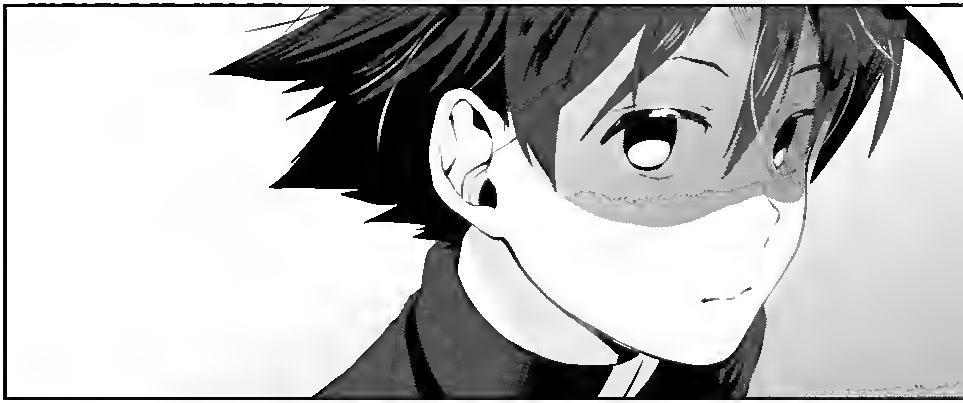

YOU TRIED TO KILL ME YESTERDAY.
YOU WOULDN'T EAT MY MOM'S OMELET.
I WAS TRYING TO BE NICE, AND YOU JUST IGNORED ME.
BUT... I'M SORRY...
BUT MOST OF ALL...
I TRIED TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF BEING FRIENDS...
...I'D RATHER DIE THAN FORGIVE YOU... FOR KILLING MR. HERO...!


I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
BUT I WANT TO BE KILLED EVEN LESS!
SO, NAMAE...
IF HE STILL SAYS NO TO THE REAL ME...

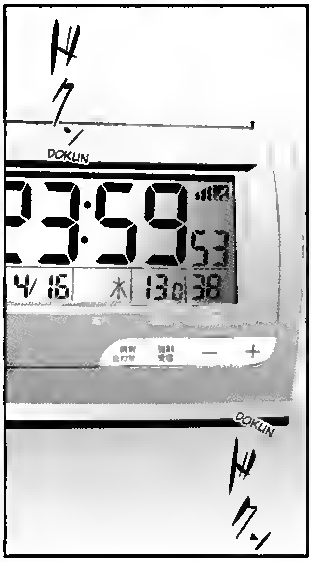

...LET'S BE FRIENDS...!
...THEN I GUESS I HAVE NO REGRETS.


LET'S BE FRIENDS...!
YOU'RE NOT LIKE RITSU...
?
SUKU (RISE)
YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT...
PAKI (CRACKLE)
...SO DON'T SAY THE SAME THINGS AS HIM.
PAKI
HUH!?
PAKI
PAKI
HEY, BRAT.






DOKUN


DOKUN
23:59
53
4/16
13
38
DOKUN


DOKUN
(BA-THUMP)
DOKUN


DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN


0:00
00
Th
13.0
Day
Temp
Set Time
Connect
IT'S...
PI (BEEP)
PI
...MIDNIGHT...


♪




PAN
(POP)


(SHUDDER)
...
GIRLIE.


WANA (RAGE)
わな
WANA
わな
.....
YOU JUST CASUALLY RIDICULED ME, DIDN'T YOU...?
IRA (GRR)
?
...
SENSEI... ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
BUT REALLY, I...
POSU (PAT)
ぽす
POSU
ぽす
?
?
...DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE EVEN ASKING ME ABOUT IT.
HOW DOES SHE PASS GIVEN WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
AFTER ALL...
PON (PAT)
ぽん
YOU PASS.
GOOD JOB.
HUH?


PON (PAT)
YOU PASS.
GOOD JOB.
HUH?


.....
WANA (RAGE)
わな
WANA
わな
YOU JUST CASUALLY RIDICULED ME, DIDN'T YOU...?
IRA (GRR)
?
...
SENSEI... ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
BUT REALLY, I...
POSU (PAT)
ぽす
POSU
ぽす
?
?
...DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE EVEN ASKING ME ABOUT IT.
HOW DOES SHE PASS GIVEN WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
AFTER ALL...


...YOU'RE TREATING HER SPECIAL, AREN'T YOU?


...!?


MAYBE YOU DON'T REALIZE IT...
THAT'S THE ONE SPECIAL THING YOU DO.
...BUT YOU TREAT SOMEONE DEAR TO YOU...
...DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU TREAT...
...A COMPLETE STRANGER.
HMM?
WELL...
SENSEI... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?


I'M NOT TELLING YOU.
すSUTA
た
IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS IF I TELL YOU.
すSUTA (STEP)
た
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS ONE HINT.
THIS IS THE TRUTH. IT'S NOT A LIE OR A TRICK.


NAMAE...
...THEY'RE YOUR "EMOTIONS." IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THEM...


.....
...GET TO KNOW HER BETTER.


OH, YEAH, YEAH.
I'LL EXPLAIN IT SO YOU UNDERSTAND.
13:11
BUSU CHMPH
SASU (RUB)
SASU
LEVI...?


WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE WAY HE'S TREATING HER...
...IS THAT HE'S TREATING HER LIKE HE *PARTICULARLY HATES* HER.
?
...SO, HE CAN FEEL EMOTIONS.
HE ONLY KILLS PEOPLE...
DON'T GET "TOO INVOLVED" WITH NORMALS.
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME
AND ACTUALLY, ASIDE FROM THAT, HE'S PRETTY MUCH DISGUSTINGLY HARMLESS.
BUT YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?
!
HE WAS FLAT OUT...
...PISSED AT HER.


KUSHUN (ACHOO)
HE'S AN IDIOT, SO HE PROBABLY WON'T EVEN THINK OF THAT.
THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER HATED SOMEONE.
...BESIDES, NOW SHE'S IN THE POSITION TO ACTUALLY BE HIS FRIEND.
GYO (SHOCK)
SHE'S GOING TO MAKE A GOOD PLAYTHING.
UGH.
...TO LIKE YOU.
BESIDES, JUST TRY TO GET SOMEONE LIKE NAMAE, WHOSE ACTIONS NEVER MAKE ANY SENSE...
...IF THEY AREN'T ON EQUAL STANDING, THAT'S NOT FRIENDSHIP.
EVEN IF SHE'S RISKING HER LIFE...
...
KACHI (CLICK)
YOU'D JUST END UP AS HIS SLAVE.
FUU (LOW)


NOW, THIS NEW TOY...
...WILL PROBABLY LAST THREE DAYS AT THE MOST...


?
<DID YOU KNOW?>
SLIII (SHIFF)
<IT SEEMS THE STRONGEST MAGICIAN HAS TAKEN A NEW APPRENTICE.>
<A YOUNG MAN BY THE NAME OF OUKA NAMAE.>
<I AM AWARE OF THAT. HE'S AROUND THE SAME AGE AS ME.>
<NO.>

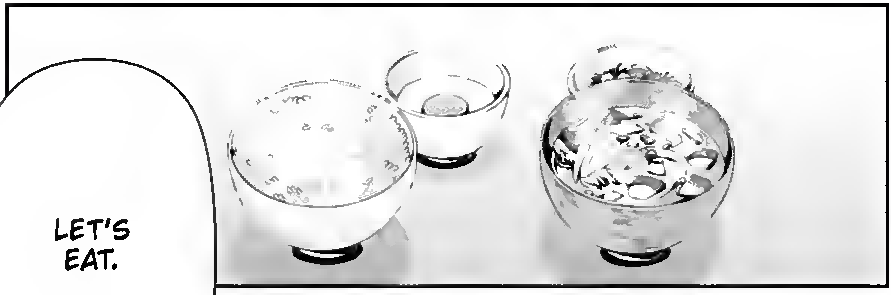

<I GOT THE APPLICATION FROM THE OLD MEN FOUR HOURS AGO.>
<SHE'S A PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE.>
<NOT HIM. A GIRL.>
<AND I JUST HAPPEN TO BE IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW. YOU COME HERE TOO.>
<I CAN'T BELIEVE SAKI-KUN'S ACTUALLY BRINGING TWO KIDS INTO HIS LIFE.>
<WHAT IS HE THINKING?>



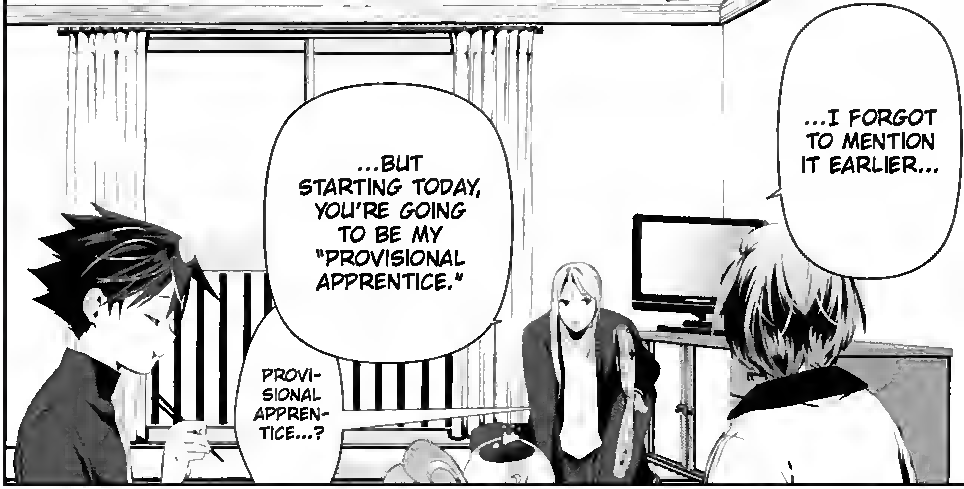
CHAPTER 7 "SPECIAL?"

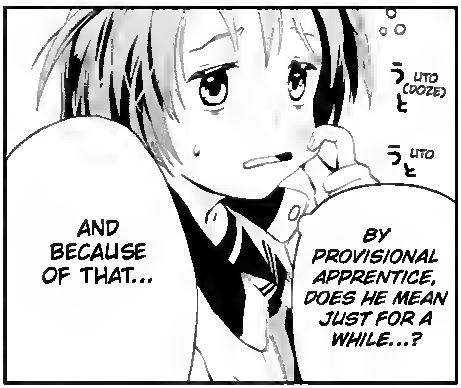



GU
GU (BUBBLE)
POTSU
POTSU (PLOP)
SOME-ONE...
...SPECIAL TO "ME"...
...


LET'S EAT.


I THINK IT WOULD BE WEIRD TO BE ABLE TO SLEEP HERE...
もMOGU
もMOGU
もMOGU
THESE PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO KILL ME UNTIL JUST YESTERDAY.
もMOGU
もMOGU CHUNCHO
I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK LAST NIGHT.
GIN
GIN (YAWN)
GIRLIE...
I HAVE TO HURRY AND COME UP WITH SOMETHING...
WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE UNTIL HE KILLS YOU.
AND YOU...
BUT REALLY, NAMAE DOES STILL HOLD MY LIFE IN HIS HANDS.
はん PAN
はん PAN (THUNK)


...I FORGOT TO MENTION IT EARLIER...
...BUT STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY "PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE."
PROVI-SIONAL APPREN-TICE...?


うとと (OOZE)
うとと
AND BECAUSE OF THAT...
BY PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE, DOES HE MEAN JUST FOR A WHILE...?


I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU DO ANY APPRENTICE STUFF, BUT IT'S ONE OF THE MAGICIANS' RULES.
SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO MAKE IT WORK.


...THERE ARE GOING TO BE MAGICIANS COMING AFTER YOU NOW AND THEN TO TRY TO KILL YOU.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MAGICIANS!?
BA (JUMP)
WHY ME...?
HUH ...!?
...SO THEY BRING HIS APPRENTICES INTO IT AS WELL.
SENSEI HAS DONE QUITE A BIT TO INCUR THE OTHER MAGICIANS' WRATH...
JUST HOW MUCH DO THEY HATE YOU!?
MU (HMPH)
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...!!
...BUT THERE ARE A FEW WHO MANAGE TO SLIP THROUGH.
MOST OF THE TIME, THEY GET DRIVEN AWAY BY SENSEI'S TRAPS...


BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO GETS TO KILL YOU.
ANYWAY, I MADE A PROMISE TO NAMAE, SO I CAN'T PUT A BARRIER ON YOU, ASIDE FROM THOSE GLASSES.
...BUT FOR THE MOST PART, YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOURSELF.
I'LL COME TO SAVE YOU IF THEY GET A HOLD OF YOU...
THEY'RE IGNORING ME!?
...
THEY'RE SO...
SUTON (PLOP) すとん
NOW YOU WANT ME TO DEAL WITH OTHER MAGICIANS TOO!? THAT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE!!
I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL JUST DEALING WITH HIM.
...


PAKU (CHOMP)
ぱく
HAA...
...
.....
?
HEY, GIRLIE...

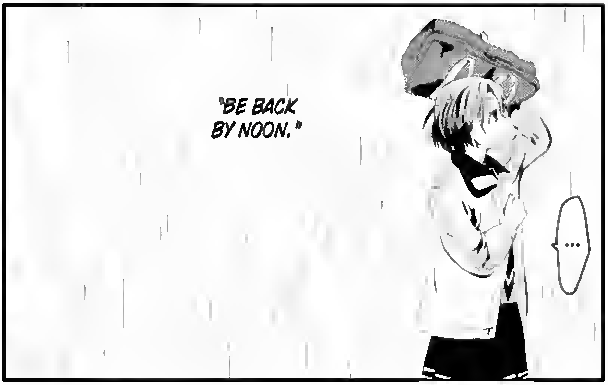

BUUU (BFFT)
SA (PWISH)
さっ
!?
...THAT FOOD'S POISONED.
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THAT WAS THE CASE?
!?
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WASN'T ANY POISON THIS TIME...
...BUT YOU'RE EVEN BEING WARY OF NAMAE.
...
I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE IF SHE'LL EVEN LAST A DAY...
...
THAT...
...IS SPECIAL TO ME...?


IT'S 6:30 RIGHT NOW...


POTSU (PLOP)
POTSU


"GO HOME FOR NOW."
"YOU COULDN'T SLEEP HERE, RIGHT? GO GET SOME REST.
"HUH!?"


I GET TO GO HOME...

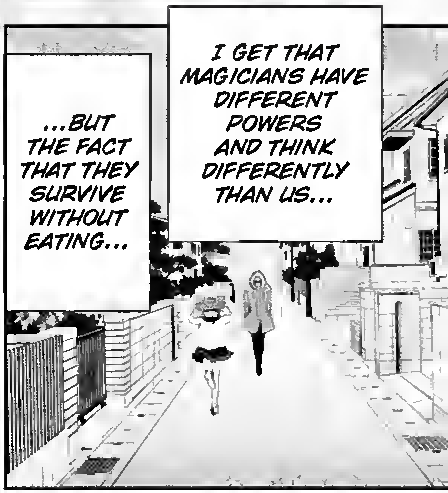

"BE BACK BY NOON."
...

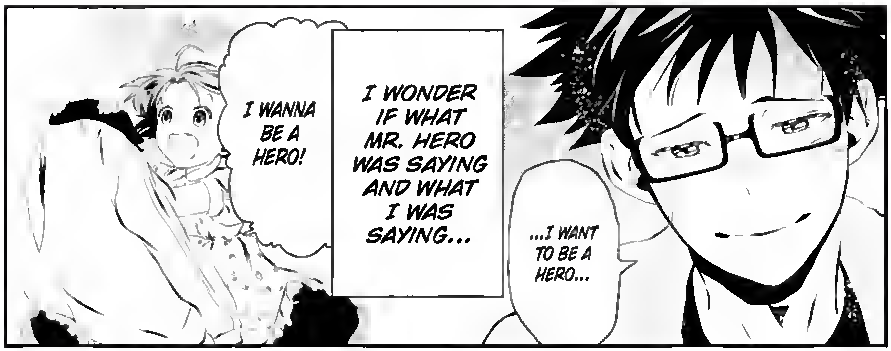

IT'S STARTING TO COME DOWN HARDER.
I NEED A WAY TO DEAL WITH NAMAE...
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT LONG, BUT I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING.
TA (TROT) たったたったたっ
IF I UNDERSTOOD HOW, I COULD COME UP WITH A PLAN...
I'M SPECIAL TO HIM...
...THIS MORNING HE WAS SAYING...
...THAT MAGICIANS DON'T EAT...
PASHA (SPLASH)
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...SO I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M SPECIAL TO HIM EITHER...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S USUALLY LIKE...


HUH? MISTER, WHY ARE YOU...
...THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NOT EATING?
IT'S NOT THAT SHOCKING, YOU KNOW.
NO WAY! YOU'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T EAT!
...ARE YOU... BEING WARY OF NAMAE?
NO.
MAGICIANS DON'T EAT.
HUH!?


AS "VESSELS" FOR THE SPIRITS WE MAKE CONTRACTS WITH, WE MAGICIANS...
...HAVE TO ALWAYS KEEP OUR BODIES PURE.
INSTEAD, MY SPIRITS EAT AND PASS NUTRITION ON TO ME.
WE DON'T DRINK EITHER.
WE USUALLY MAKE A CONTRACT WITH A SPIRIT AROUND AGE [illegible]N...
...
...SO WE EAT NORMALLY UNTIL THEN.
EAT YOUR VEGGIES TOO
KOKU
KOKU (NOD)


...MAKES IT FEEL LIKE THEY COME FROM A WHOLE OTHER WORLD...


I GET THAT MAGICIANS HAVE DIFFERENT POWERS AND THINK DIFFERENTLY THAN US...
...BUT THE FACT THAT THEY SURVIVE WITHOUT EATING...


I WANNA BE A HERO!
I WONDER IF WHAT MR. HERO WAS SAYING AND WHAT I WAS SAYING...
...I WANT TO BE A HERO...

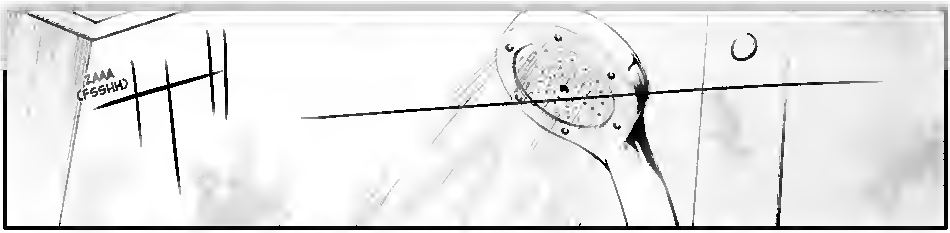

"MAGICIANS," HUH...?
...WERE "DIFFERENT" TOO...


S—
SU (SLIP)
SORRY!
TON (THUD)
OH!


NII
GRIND


KATSU
KATSU
KATSU
KATSU
KATSU
KATSU
KATSU
KATSU
KATSUN (CLACK)
ZAAAA (FSSSHHH)

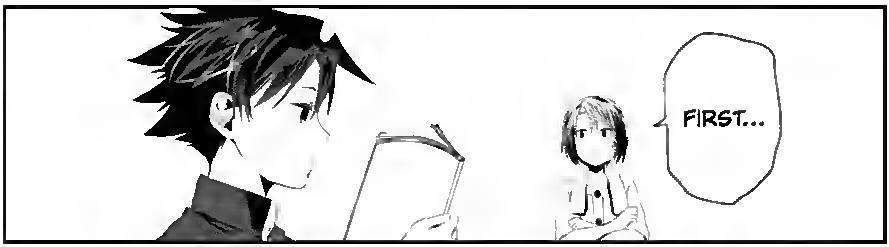

WHAT...
WAS THAT?


ZAAA
(FSSHH)


I'M ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO BE AT SCHOOL RIGHT NOW.
I'M GLAD NO ONE'S HOME.
I WONDER WHAT WAS WITH THAT GUY I BUMPED INTO EARLIER...
.....
ZAA
POTATA (CRIP)


.....
NO SENSE WORRYING ABOUT IT NOW.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MAGICIANS... I GUESS.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS WEIRD OR ANYTHING.
IT'S EIGHT O'CLOCK ON THE DOT RIGHT NOW.
IT TAKES FORTY MINUTES TO GET THERE, SO I HAVE THREE HOURS AND TWENTY MINUTES LEFT.
KACHI (TICK)
I'LL ASK ONCE I GET BACK TO THE APARTMENT...!
I HAVE TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO FACE NAMAE!
GU (CLENCH)


スタ
SUTA
スタ
SUTA
(STEP)
WHEN IT COMES TO A PLAN, I SHOULD START BY DOING SOME RESEARCH ON MAGICIANS.


FIRST...


EXCUSE ME.


THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED, SO I DECIDED TO WAIT INSIDE.
WH-WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE!?
NAMAE ...!?


GET OUT, YOU TRESPASSER!!
POI (TOSS)
ぽい


THAT WAS CARELESS OF YOU.
KUWA (SHOCK)
くわ

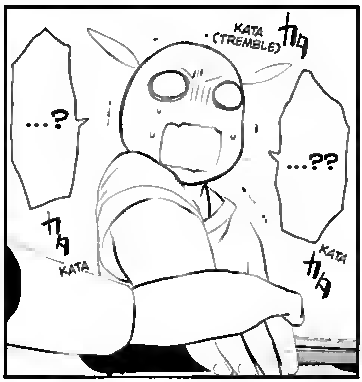

...SO LEAVE ME ALONE UNTIL THEN!
I'LL COME BACK TO THE APARTMENT...


THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASCERTAIN RIGHT AWAY.
!?
.....
EEEK!!
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI (TICK)
KACHI


SOMETHING HE NEEDS TO ASCERTAIN SO BAD THAT HE FORCED HIS WAY INTO MY HOUSE?
WHAT COULD IT BE...!?
GUGU (PRESS)
DON'T WORRY. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HARMING YOU.
HE'S STRONG!!
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME."
...HE SAYS THAT, BUT...
JI (STARE)
HE'S TOTALLY STARING AT ME!!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME NOT TO WORRY!
I SHOULD TURN ON THE TV...
SO (REACH)


GA (GRAB)
!?


SHIN (SILENCE)


KATA (TREMBLE)
...?
...??
KATA
KATA

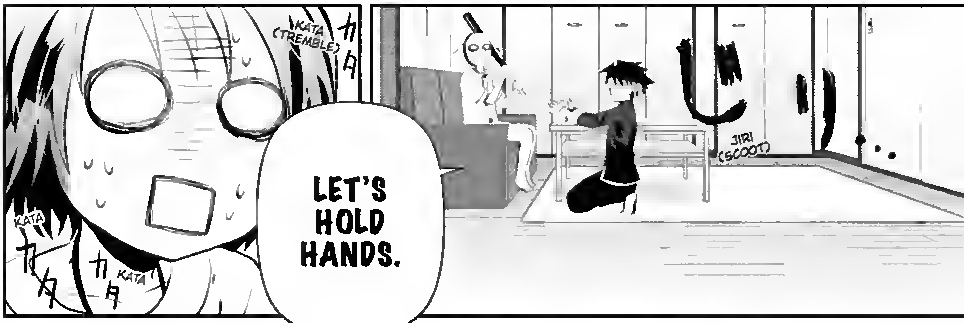

WH-WHAT...!?
UM...

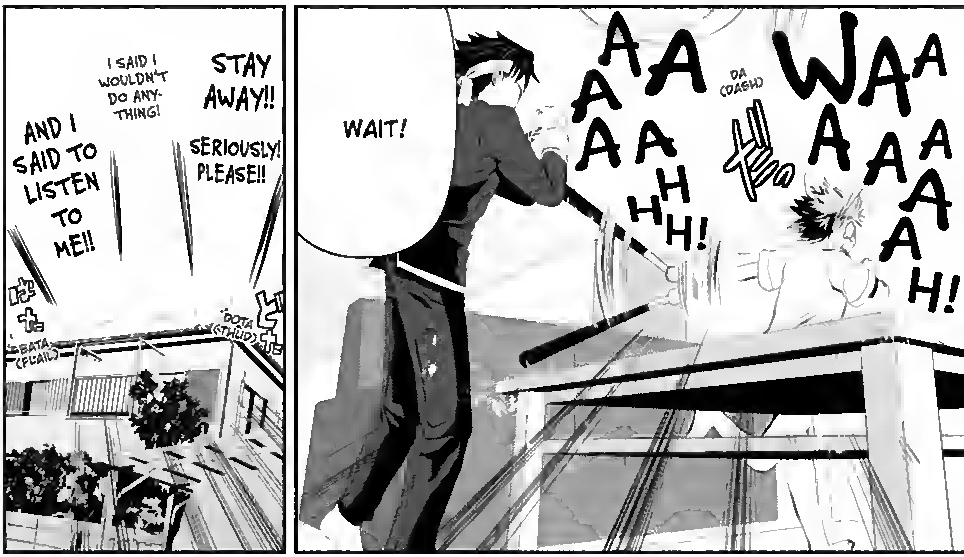

!??
THERE'S... NOTHING.
KAKI (SKRITCH)
カキ
KAKI
カキ


HUH?
...LIKE TO HOLD HANDS?
WOULD YOU...
JUST GRABBING IT WASN'T ENOUGH.


I WON'T DO ANYTHING.
IT'S THE HOLDING HANDS PART THAT I DON'T WANNA DO!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE TRYING TO DO?
NO WAY!!
IT'S JUST PHYSI-CALLY IMPOS-SIBLE!!
THEN...
...HOW ABOUT THIS?

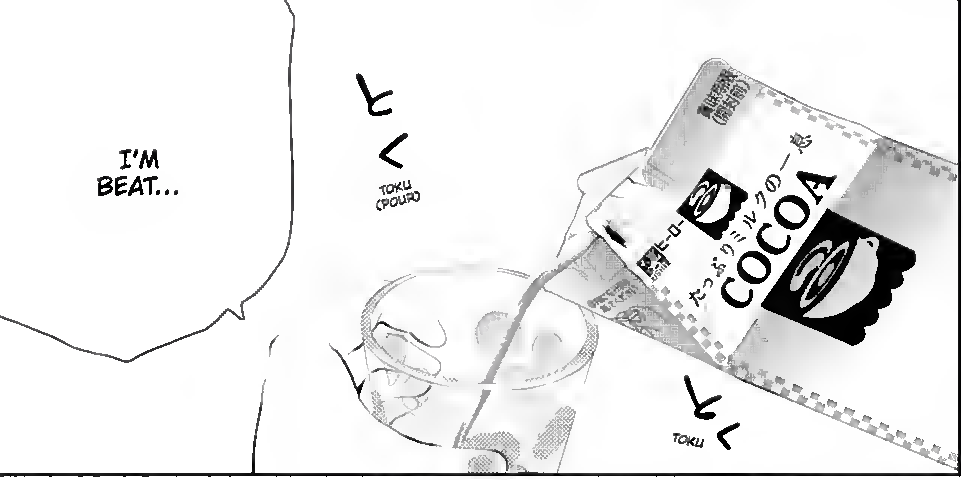

...I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
DON (TA-DAA)
NOW...


KATA (TREMBLE)
KATA
KATA
LET'S HOLD HANDS.
JIRI (SCOOT)

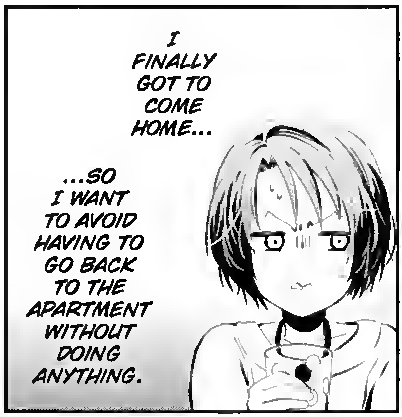

I SAID I WOULDN'T DO ANY-THING!
STAY AWAY!!
AND I SAID TO LISTEN TO ME!!
SERIOUSLY! PLEASE!!
BATA (FLAIL)
DOTA (THUD)
WAIT!
DA (CRASH)
AAAAAAHHH!
WAAAAAAH!


WHEEZE-
HAA.
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS PERSIS-TENCE!?
HAA.
PLEASE!
WHEEZE-
WHEEZE-
...I GUESS I CAN'T HELP IT.
JUST... HOLDING HANDS, OKAY?
WHEEZE-
WHEEZE-
KYU (GRAB)
SORO (SLOW)


PESHI (SMACK)
ペ
し
H-HE SMACKED IT AWAY!?
THIS...
KAKI (SKRITCH)
か
き
...IS AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY...
WEREN'T WE GONNA HOLD HANDS!?
かき
KAKI



CARTON. BEST USED BY (BEFORE OPENING), HERO, PLENTY OF MILK IN EACH GULP



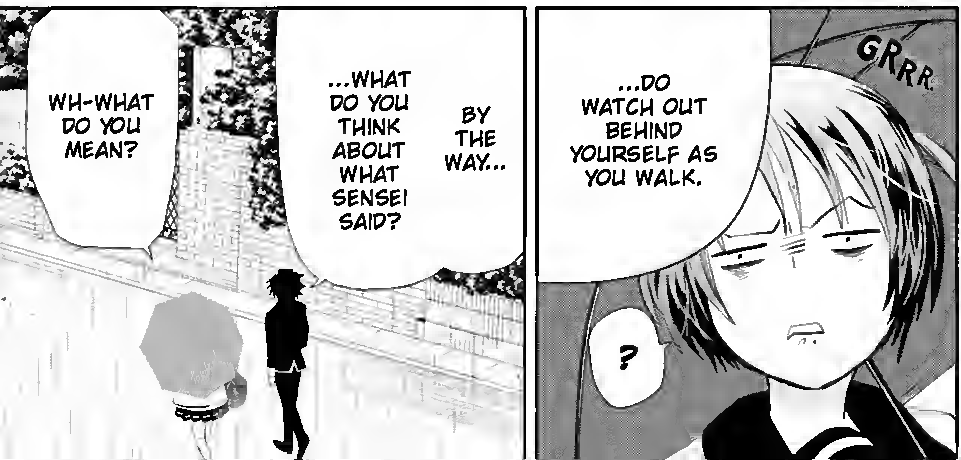





IT'S NOT BITTER-SWEET...
ZABA (SLEEGH)
WELL, YEAH! IT'S ICED COCOA, SO OF COURSE IT'S NOT GONNA BE BITTER-SWEET!!
...WHAT'S ODD...
SO (CREACH)
.....
MEMO
MEMO
THIS IS ODD...
...IS YOU, YOU IDIOT!!
GA (CHEAVE)


11:30
BECAUSE OF ALL OF THE WEIRD THINGS NAMAE WAS DOING, I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING...
TEKU
TEKU (TRUDGE)


IT'S RAINING, SO OF COURSE I AM.
THEN...
YOU'RE USING AN UMBRELLA?
ARRR
AAAAHH! NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO!?
RRGH!


WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT SENSEI SAID?
BY THE WAY...
...DO WATCH OUT BEHIND YOURSELF AS YOU WALK.
GRRR
?


THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO ASCERTAIN TODAY.
ABOUT WHAT "SPECIAL" MEANS.
!
HOW YOU...
...ARE "SPECIAL" TO ME...
.....IS THAT WHAT ALL OF THAT WEIRD STUFF YOU WERE DOING WAS ABOUT?
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I CAME TO A CONCLUSION.
!?

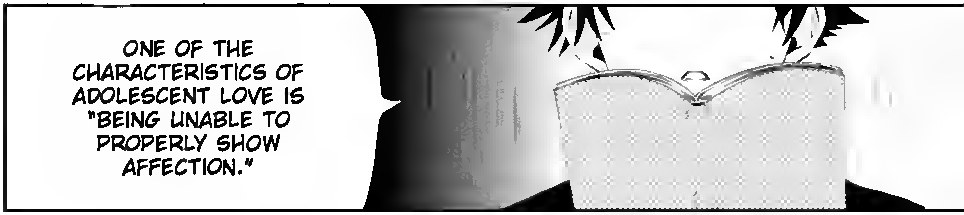

HE TOOK MY DRINK FROM ME...
I TRIED TO HOLD HIS HAND, AND HE SMACKED MINE AWAY.
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING THIS "SPECIAL" THING IS ALL ABOUT?
TO ME, IT JUST LOOKED LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO PICK ON ME.
IT SEEMS I...

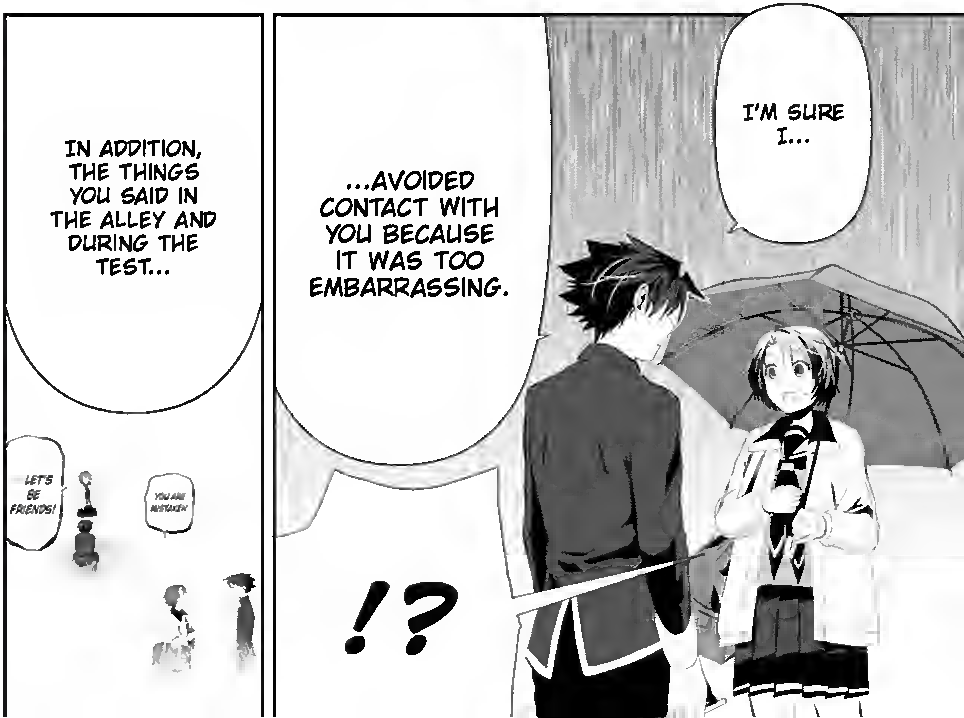

...IN LOVE WITH YOU.
LOVE ...?
...AM ...


...
ÄM
...

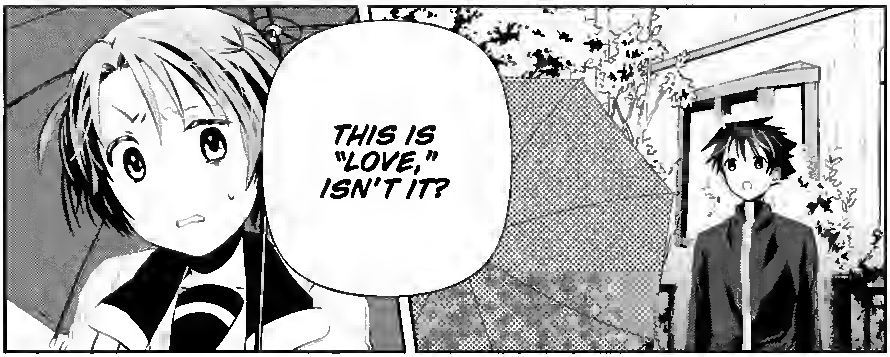

...IN LOVE WITH YOU.
LOVE ...?


KYU (GRAB)
WE TRIED TO HOLD HANDS AS A TEST, DIDN'T WE?
FOR SOME REASON, I SMACKED YOUR HAND AWAY WHEN THAT HAPPENED.
IT'S WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK.
BA (SHOCK)
HOW DO YOU GET THAT!?


ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ADOLESCENT LOVE IS "BEING UNABLE TO PROPERLY SHOW AFFECTION."


IN ADDITION, THE THINGS YOU SAID IN THE ALLEY AND DURING THE TEST...
LET'S BE FRIENDS!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN
...AVOIDED CONTACT WITH YOU BECAUSE IT WAS TOO EMBARRASSING.
!?
I'M SURE I...


I JUST CAN'T GET THOSE WORDS AND ACTIONS OUT OF MY HEAD.
ぎっ
GI
CCLENCHD

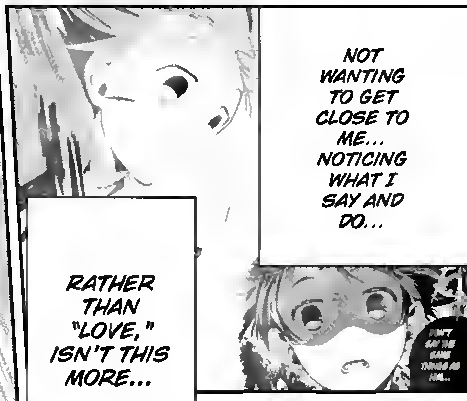

THIS IS "LOVE," ISN'T IT?


IT'S TRUE I DID NOT HAVE ANY REACTION OF THAT SORT, BUT...
ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT YOUR HEART POUNDING, GETTING ALL EXCITED, AND THINGS BEING BITTERSWEET!?
WAIT A MINUTE! "LOVE"...? BUT—!


THIS HAS TO BE LOVE.
IS THAT WHAT THAT MEANT!?
...THE BOOK SAYS THAT THERE CAN BE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN WHETHER INDIRECT KISSES TASTE LIKE LOVE OR NOT.
KATA (TREMBLE)
OH, FOR SOME REASON...
...I FEEL NAUSEOUS...
KATA
KATA


...LIKE "HATE" ...!?
.....


ALL OF THESE "SPECIAL" CHARACTER-ISTICS...
? WAIT A MINUTE ...


NOT WANTING TO GET CLOSE TO ME... NOTICING WHAT I SAY AND DO...
RATHER THAN "LOVE," ISN'T THIS MORE...


...!?
TA (SLUMP)
OH...THAT MAKES MORE SENSE. I BET "SPECIAL" MEANT "HATE"...!
WHOA!?
SA (WISH)
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT!?
OH MY!
BA (GASP)
AND HERE OUKA-KUN WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOU.
HUH?


YOU'RE NOT PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO YOUR BACK, DESPITE HAVING AN UMBRELLA UP.
!?
PUSH (PSSHT)
ZOOM


THE MAN FROM THIS MORNING...
JUST A BEGINNER. I KNEW IT.
KURA (WOBBLE)
AN UMBRELLA'S JUST A SHEET OF FABRIC, BUT IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE DISTANCED YOURSELF FROM OTHERS...
...SO YOU'RE NOT AS CAREFUL.
SUKU (BUBBLE)
OH.


BYU (WHOOSH)
YO!
AH!
!
SUU (FWISH)
!
YOU SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED IT TO HER "BACK THEN"...
AH!
IT'S RAINING SO OF COURSE I AM
YOU'RE USING AN UMBRELLA?
DO WATCH OUT BEHIND YOURSELF AS YOU WALK.
?
OH WELL. IT STILL WOULD HAVE ENDED UP THE SAME.
GA (PRESS)
SUUU (DRIFT)

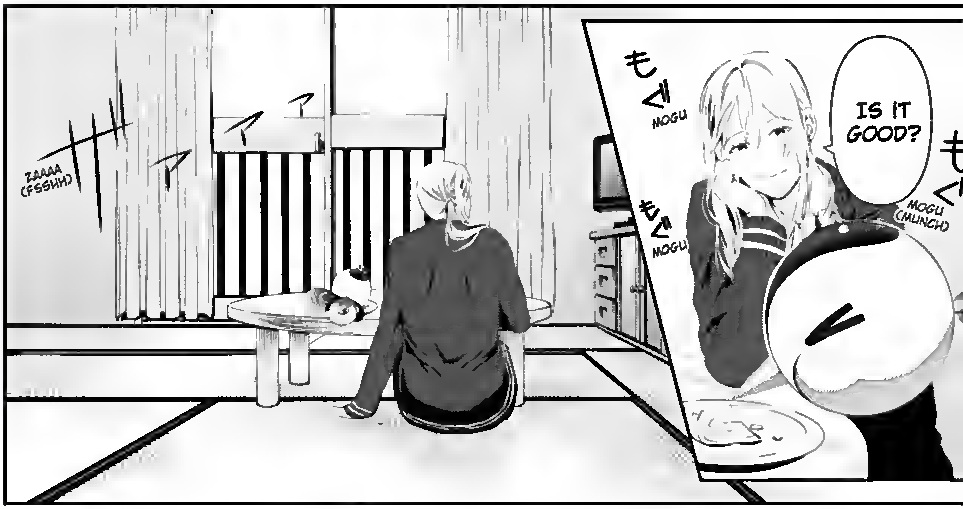

THERE WE GO.
OUKA NAMAE-KUN, APPRENTICE TO THE STRONGEST MAGICIAN...
...AND THE MYSTERIOUS PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE GIRL.
WA HA!

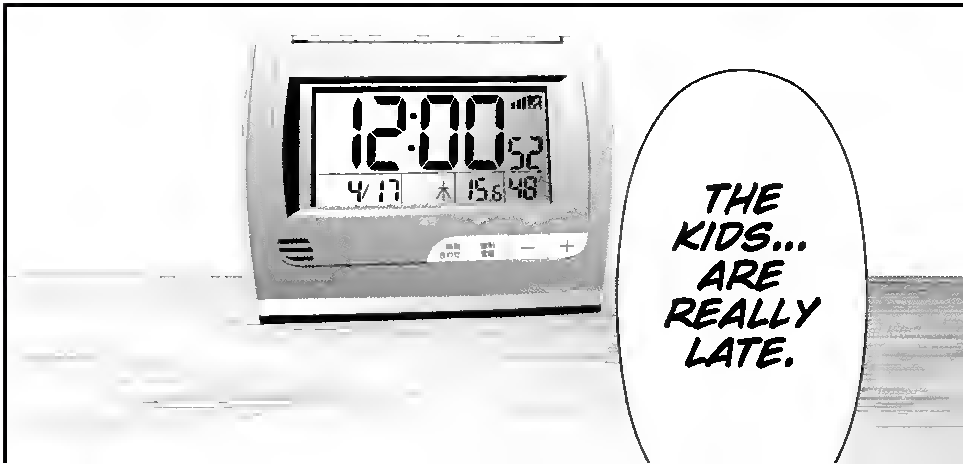

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.


GUUU (GRRUMBLE)
JUST WAIT, LEVI.
I'LL TAKE A LOOK.
SHOBON (DROOP)


OH.
THIS WILL DO.
PUUU (HMPH)
GYUURU (RUMBLE)
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GOSO
GYURURU
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'LL EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING WHEN YOU GET HUNGRY.
ZAAA (FSSHH)
...BUT REALLY...


...AWAY FROM THE POISONS HE MAKES.
...WE NEED TO MAKE NAMAE KEEP THE FOOD...

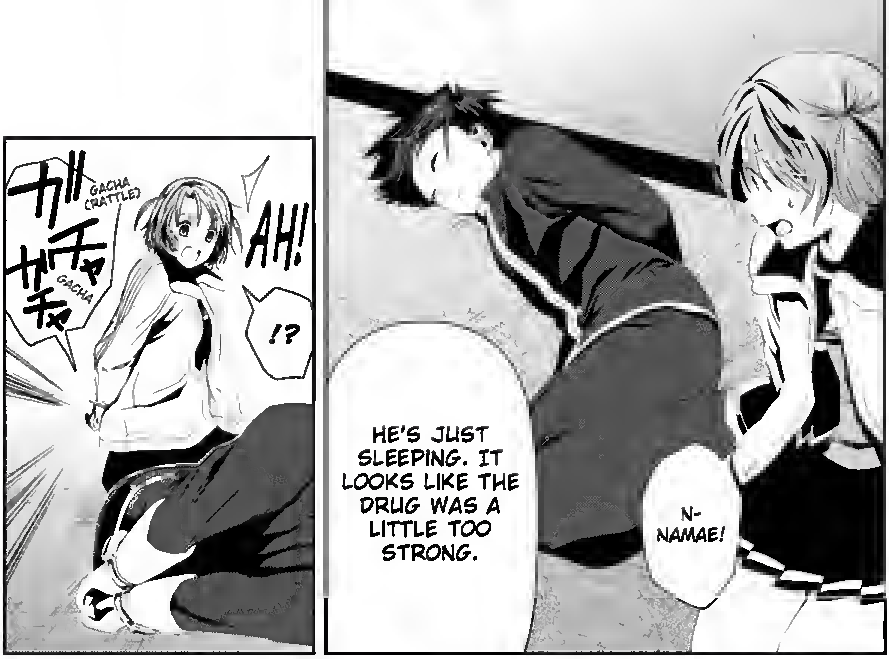

ZAAAA (FSSHH)
MOGU
MOGU
IS IT GOOD?
MOGU (MUNCH)


12:00 52
4/17
15.6 48
THE KIDS... ARE REALLY LATE.

CHAPTER 8 "BECAUSE I HATE YOU"




ZAAA (FSSSHHH)
パチ (BLINK)
...
?
...WHERE AM I?
WAAH!
BA (SHOCK)
!?
WA-HA-HA. YOU'RE AN ENERGETIC ONE.
GOOD MORNING, SHOU TAKAHATA-SAN.

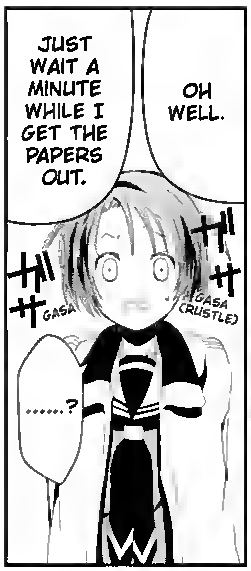

GACHA (RATTLE)
GACHA
AH!
!?
HE'S JUST SLEEPING. IT LOOKS LIKE THE DRUG WAS A LITTLE TOO STRONG.
N-NAMAE!


WHAT... IS GOING ON?

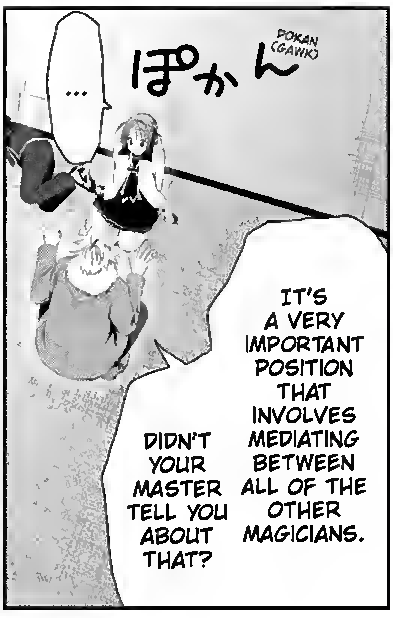

FIRST OFF, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.
HIKU (FLINCH)
THERE ARE GOING TO BE MAGICIANS COMING AFTER YOU NOW AND THEN TO TRY TO KILL YOU.
...

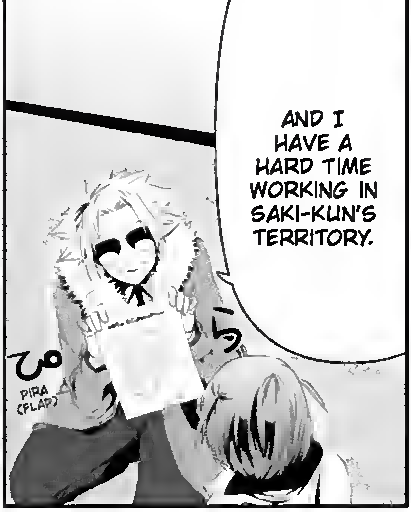

HE'S A BOY WHO BETRAYED THE MAGICIANS FIVE DAYS AGO.
HE'S TALKING ABOUT MR. HERO ...!?
DO YOU KNOW "RITSU MORIYA"?
SO YOU DO KNOW HIM.
!
...THEN I GUESS NOT EVERYTHING IN THE REPORT WAS A LIE.
YOUR FACE IS EASY TO READ.


I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET, HAVE I?
MY NAME IS LEO KOENIG.
I AM THE CONTROLLER OF THE MAGICIANS.
C-CONTROLLER?

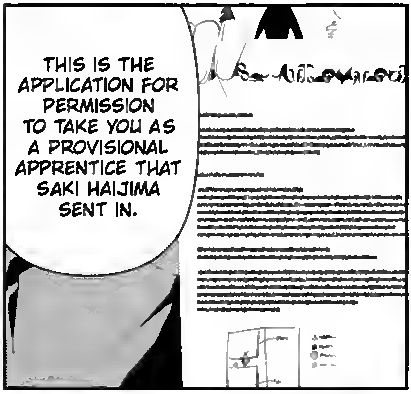

JUST WAIT A MINUTE WHILE I GET THE PAPERS OUT.
OH WELL.
GASA
GASA (RUSTLE)
.....?


HEH HEH HEH.
...SAKI-KUN'S ALWAYS PRETTY SLOPPY WHEN IT COMES TO THAT STUFF.


...
ぽかん
POKAN (GAWK)
DIDN'T YOUR MASTER TELL YOU ABOUT THAT?
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT POSITION THAT INVOLVES MEDIATING BETWEEN ALL OF THE OTHER MAGICIANS.

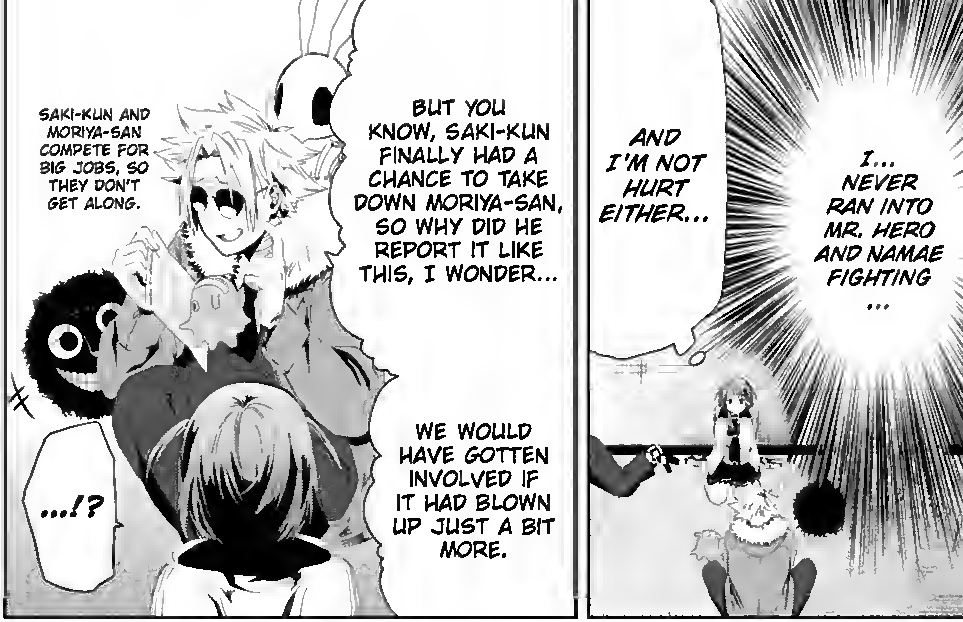

AND I HAVE A HARD TIME WORKING IN SAKI-KUN'S TERRITORY.
PIRA (FLAP)

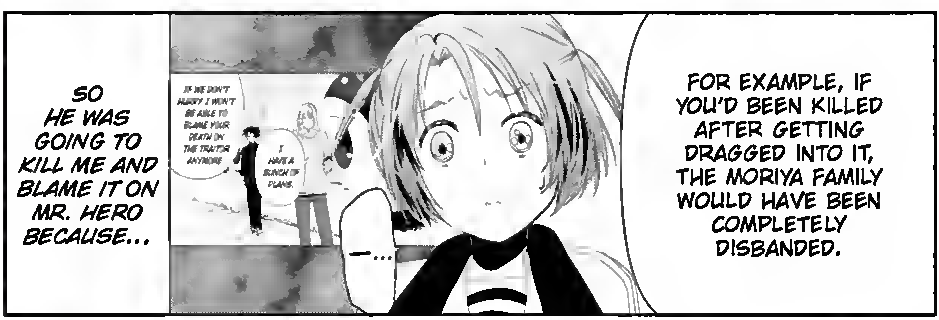

I BROUGHT YOU TWO HERE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE.
SU (SLIDE)

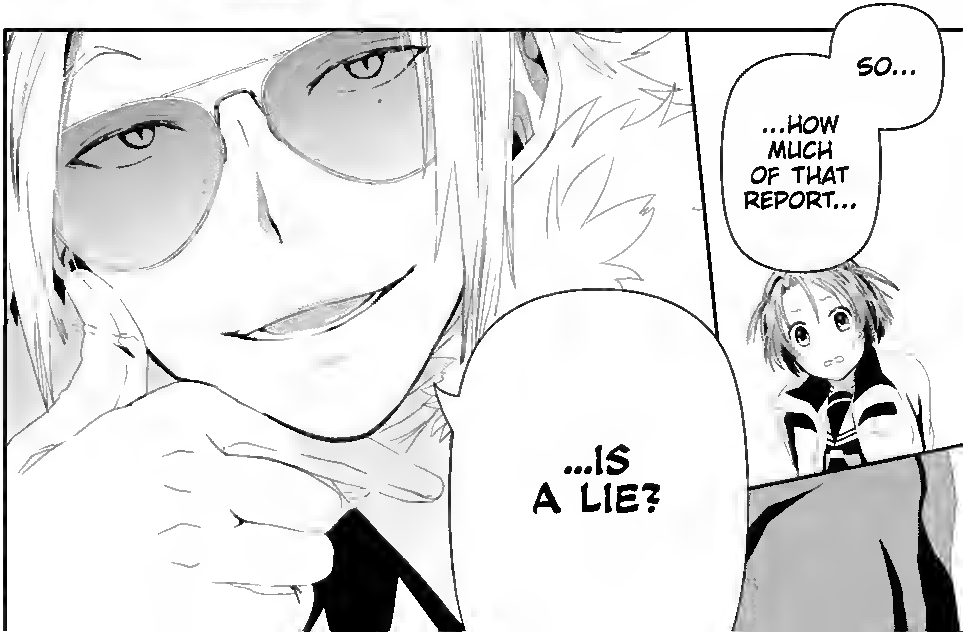

THIS IS THE APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO TAKE YOU AS A PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE THAT SAKI HAIJIMA SENT IN.

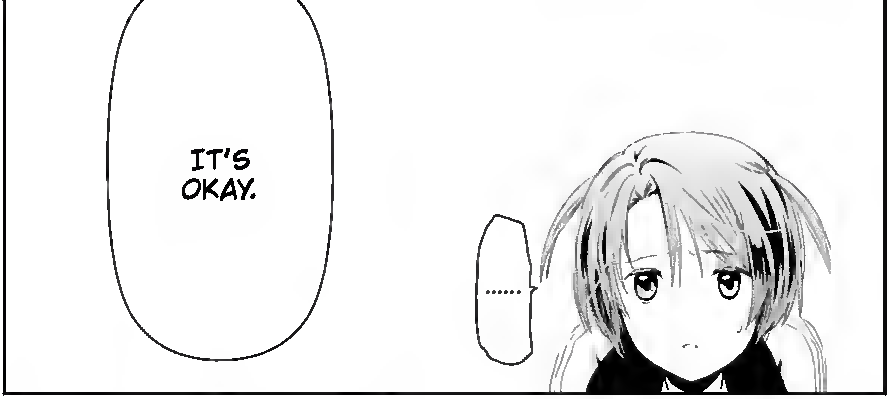

OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU A SIMPLE SUMMARY, SO PAY ATTENTION.
HUH?
IT'S IN THE MAGICIANS' LANGUAGE, SO I'LL READ IT.

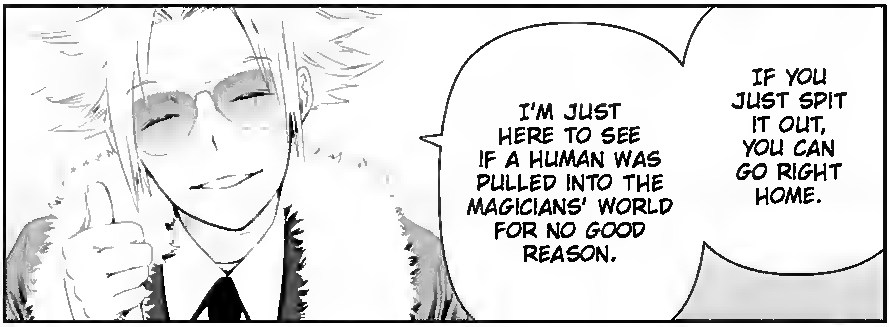

LET'S SEE.
FOUR DAYS AGO, WHILE OUKA-KUN OVER THERE WAS EXCHANGING BLOWS WITH A TRAITOR...
...YOU HAPPENED UPON THEM DUE TO SAKI-KUN'S NEGLIGENCE AND WERE INJURED BY OUKA-KUN.
BECAUSE OUKA-KUN HAS A SPECIAL ABILITY TO CRYSTALLIZE HIS POWER, SOMETHING RARE EVEN FOR MAGICIANS...
...THERE'S A CHANCE YOU MAY HAVE SUSTAINED UNEXPECTED DAMAGE.
THE MISCONDUCT OF AN APPRENTICE IS THE RESPONSI-BILITY OF THE MASTER.
GIVEN THE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WANTED TO SEE HOW YOU PROGRESSED AS A PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE BEFORE DOING ANYTHING...
AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.
.....

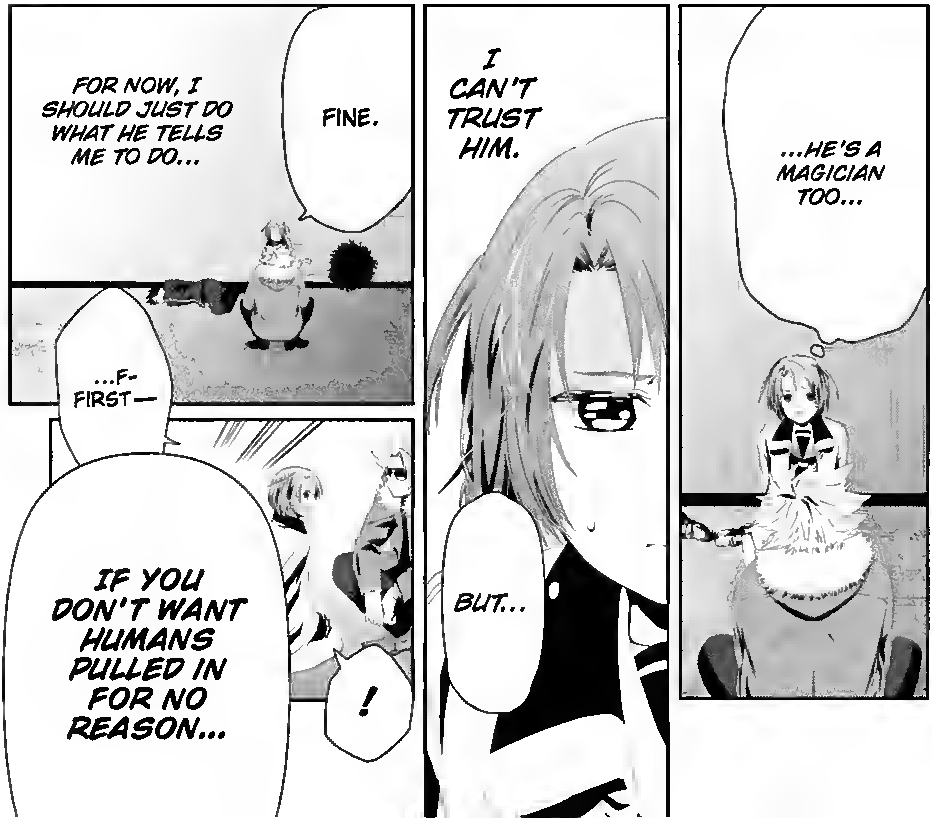

I... NEVER RAN INTO MR. HERO AND NAMAE FIGHTING ...
AND I'M NOT HURT EITHER...
BUT YOU KNOW, SAKI-KUN FINALLY HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE DOWN MORIYA-SAN, SO WHY DID HE REPORT IT LIKE THIS, I WONDER...
SAKI-KUN AND MORIYA-SAN COMPETE FOR BIG JOBS, SO THEY DON'T GET ALONG.
WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED IF IT HAD BLOWN UP JUST A BIT MORE.
...!?


FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU'D BEEN KILLED AFTER GETTING DRAGGED INTO IT, THE MORIYA FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DISBANDED.
—...
I HAVE A BUNCH OF PLANS.
IF WE DON'T HURRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO BLAME YOUR DEATH ON THE TRAITOR ANYMORE
SO HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME AND BLAME IT ON MR. HERO BECAUSE...

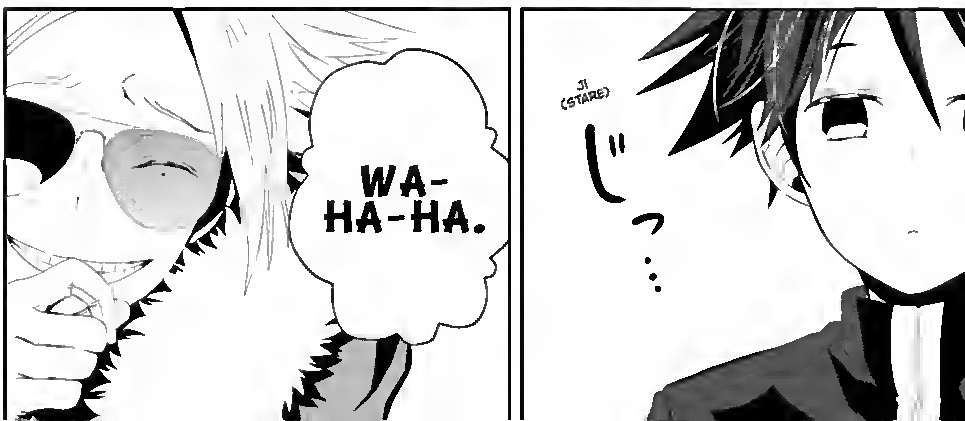

SO...
...HOW MUCH OF THAT REPORT...
...IS A LIE?


IT'S OKAY.
.....


IF YOU JUST SPIT IT OUT, YOU CAN GO RIGHT HOME.
I'M JUST HERE TO SEE IF A HUMAN WAS PULLED INTO THE MAGICIANS' WORLD FOR NO GOOD REASON.

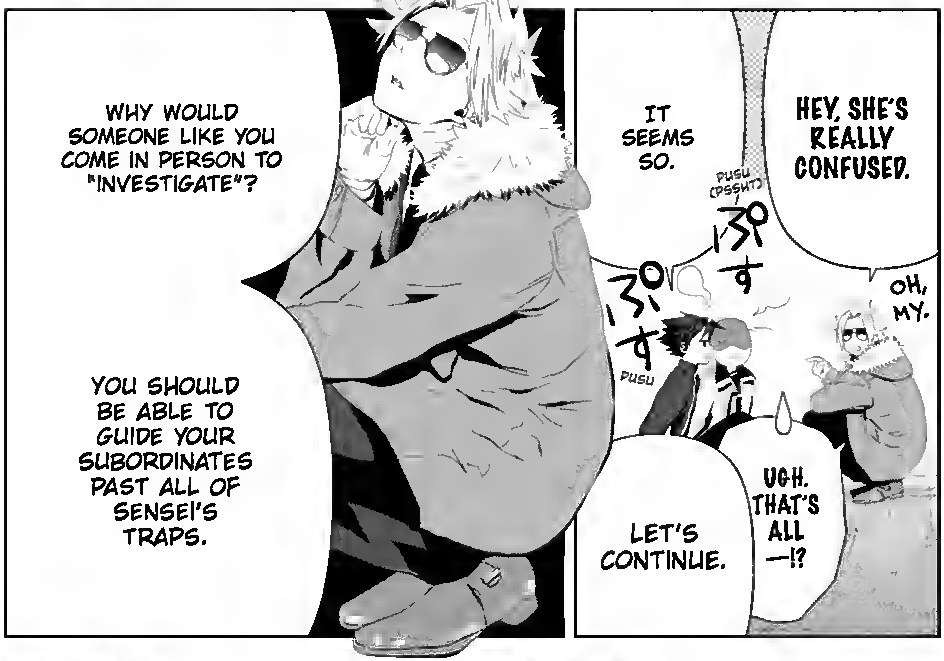

...HE'S A MAGICIAN TOO...
I CAN'T TRUST HIM.
BUT...
FINE.
FOR NOW, I SHOULD JUST DO WHAT HE TELLS ME TO DO...
...F-FIRST—
!
IF YOU DON'T WANT HUMANS PULLED IN FOR NO REASON...


HAIJIMA-SENSEI SAID THAT SHE HAD BEEN MADE A PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE.
むくっ
MUKU (RISE)
.....
NAMAE ...
OH, SO YOU'RE AWAKE.
...THEN WHY DID YOU COME TO LEARN THE TRUTH AFTER YOU APPROVED HER AS A PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE?


WA-HA-HA.
じっ...
JI (STARE)


?
JUST COVERING MY BASES.
...
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, LEO KOENIG-SAN.
BUT REALLY, YOU NEVER CHANGE, OUKA-KUN.
WHA—? HUH!?
HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH SAKI-KUN?
HE CAN BE PRETTY DIFFI-CULT.
LONG TIME NO SEE!
BASHI (SMACK)
BASHI
...YES.
...!?
IT'S BEEN SINCE YOU CAME TO APPLY TO BE AN APPRENTICE, SO ABOUT FOUR MONTHS, RIGHT?


I—
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL ...!
THEY KNOW EACH OTHER...!? BUT REALLY, WHAT'S GOING ON!?
OH?


HEY, SHE'S REALLY CONFUSED.
IT SEEMS SO.
PUSU (PSSHT)
130す
130す
PUSU
OH, MY.
UGH. THAT'S ALL —!?
LET'S CONTINUE.
WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU COME IN PERSON TO "INVESTIGATE"?
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GUIDE YOUR SUBORDINATES PAST ALL OF SENSEI'S TRAPS.

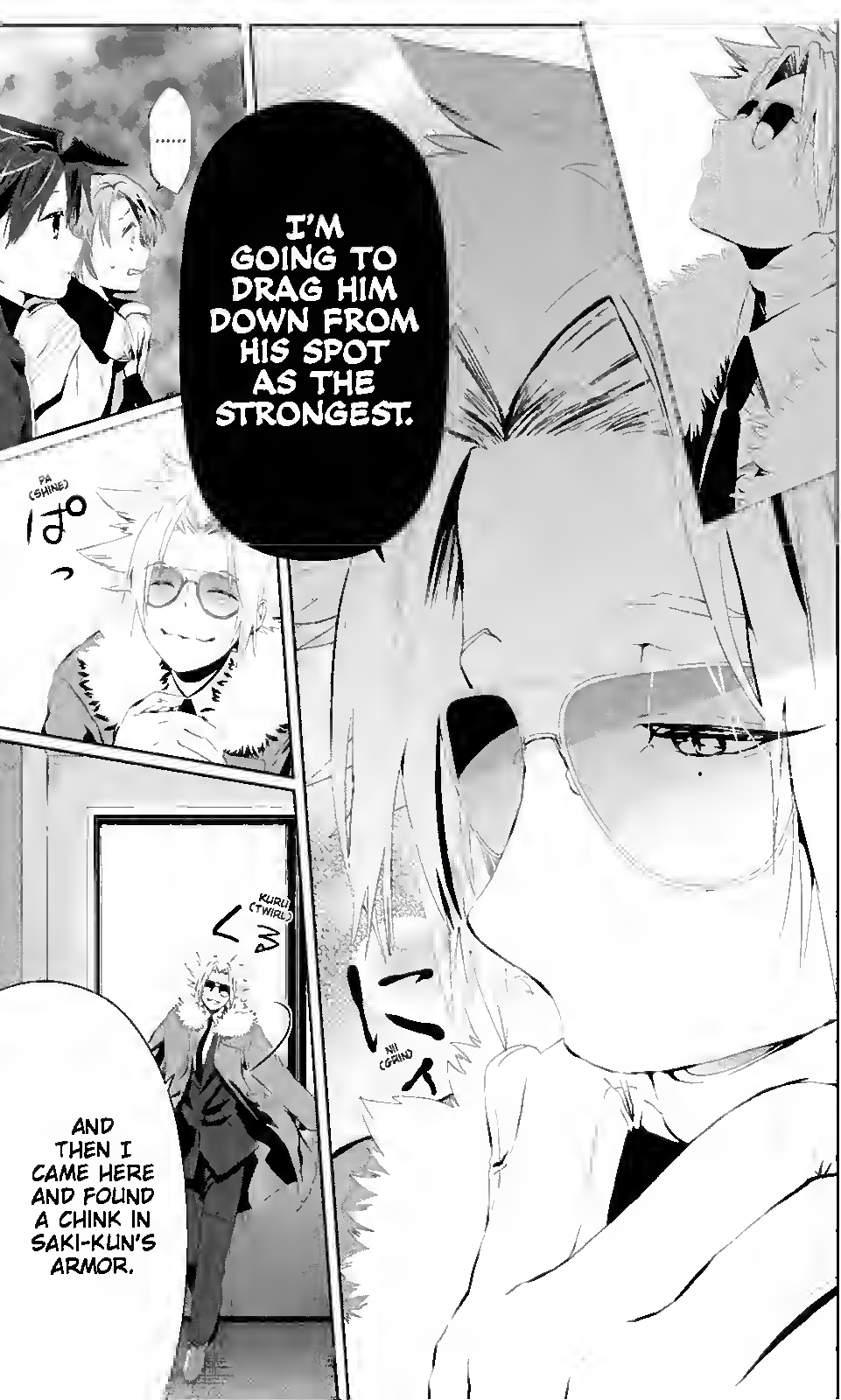

IT'S BAFFLING.


ZAAA (FSSHH)
...WELL...
YEAH...
PIRI (ZAP)
!?
THE AIR...!


THAT'S BECAUSE... I LOATHE SAKI HAIJIMA.

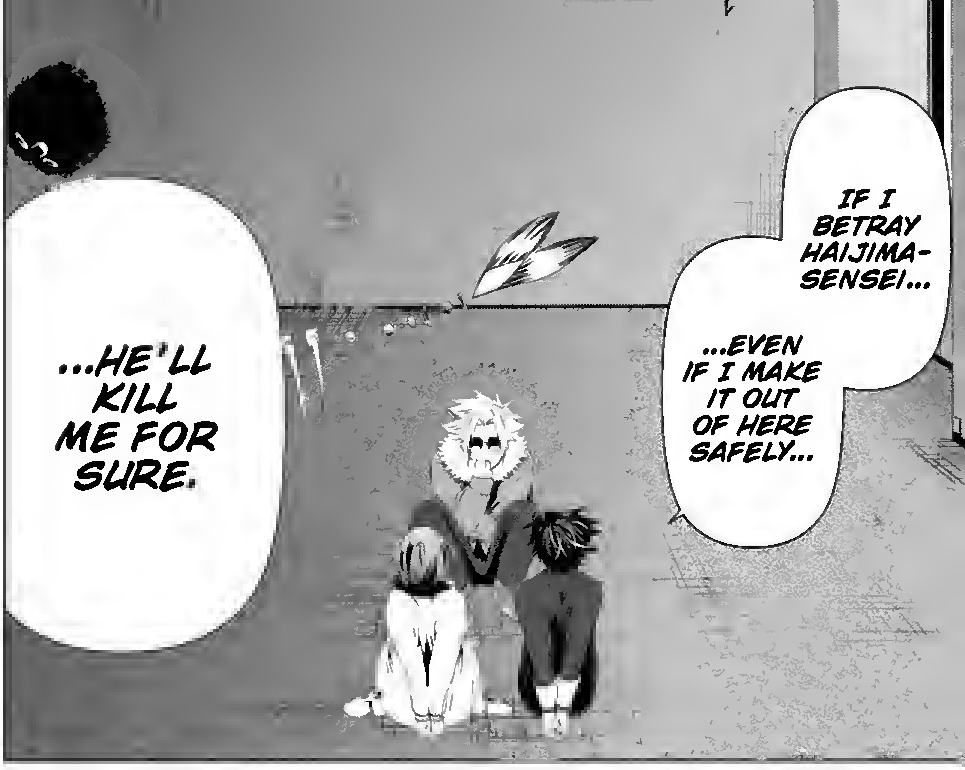

SU (CLEAN)
...BEING BORN TO THE KOENIG FAMILY, A FAMOUS MAGICIAN FAMILY.
I STARTED OUT...
YOU KNOW, I HATE TO BRAG, BUT I'M A PRETTY STRONG MAGICIAN.
...
THEY CALLED ME "THE STRONGEST MAGICIAN."
AND MY POWER WAS THE STRONGEST IN RECORDED HISTORY.
HE WAS EVERYTHING... I HATED MOST OF ALL.
...UNTIL SAKI-KUN CAME ALONG.


HOW CLOSE TO DEATH DO YOU THINK I PUSHED MYSELF?
JUST HOW HARD DO YOU THINK I WORKED?
.....
HE COULD DO THINGS IF HE TRIED.
FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, HE'S CLEARED BIG JOB AFTER BIG JOB, AND HE'S TAKEN THE TITLE OF "STRONGEST" FROM ME.
BUT HE JUST STAYED AS THE HEAD OF THE HAIJIMA FAMILY WITHOUT BECOMING THE CONTROLLER. HE EVEN LIVES IN A RUN-DOWN APARTMENT.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THE PEOPLE UP TOP...
...SAID SAKI HAIJIMA WAS TOO "CAPRICIOUS" AND TOLD ME TO BE THE CONTROLLER...


.....
I'M GOING TO DRAG HIM DOWN FROM HIS SPOT AS THE STRONGEST.
PA (SHINE)
KURU (TWIRL)
NI (GRIND)
AND THEN I CAME HERE AND FOUND A CHINK IN SAKI-KUN'S ARMOR.


SHOU TAKAHATA-SAN...
...THAT'S YOU.
I WAS PRETTY SURPRISED WHEN HE TOOK YOU AS AN APPRENTICE TOO, OUKA-KUN, BUT YOUR FATHER WAS FROM THE HAIJIMA LINE.
AND YOU ARE JUST SO SPECIAL THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND IT.
BUT YOU'RE NOT A MAGICIAN. YOU'RE JUST A PLAIN, ORDINARY JAPANESE SCHOOLGIRL.
THE STORY BEHIND YOU BECOMING HIS PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE...
...MUST BE HIDING SOME HINT AS TO HOW TO CRUSH SAKI-KUN.
KATSU (CLACK)
KATSU

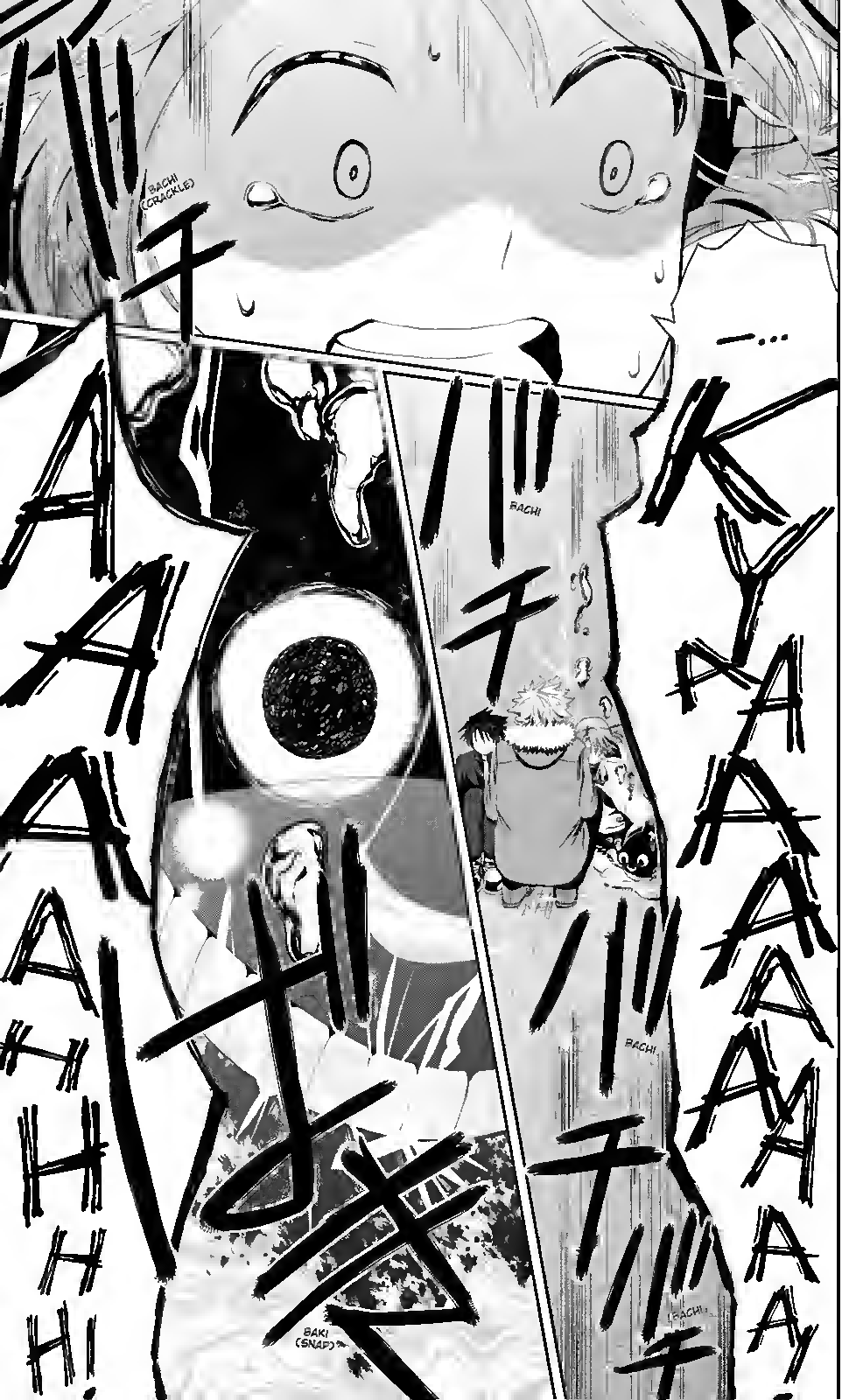

THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING.
JIRI (SCOOT)
HE SEEMS REALLY DANGEROUS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
BA (SHOCK)
...
I WON'T TALK.
!
...
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR SENSEI OR NOT...
...BUT WHY SHOULD I GIVE YOU INFORMATION?


IF I BETRAY HAIJIMA-SENSEI...
...EVEN IF I MAKE IT OUT OF HERE SAFELY...
...HE'LL KILL ME FOR SURE.


I WON'T TELL YOU ANYTHING BEFORE HE GETS HERE TO SAVE US.
BUT THAT... MEANS I'LL DIE IF I TALK...!
BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THAT I'LL SURVIVE.
AWW, THAT DOESN'T WORK FOR ME!


I'M KEEPING THIS A SECRET FROM MY GRAND-FATHER...
I WON'T TELL SAKI-KUN!
...SO I DON'T WANT TO STAY TOO LONG.
YOU PROBABLY HAVE ONE OF SAKI-KUN'S NASTY BARRIERS ON YOU, OUKA-KUN.
AND WITH THAT PERSON-ALITY, THREATS WON'T WORK EITHER.
SHIRE (SHRUG)
HUH?
PITO (PAUSE)
I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
HUH?


BAKU
(CHOMP)


KYAAA

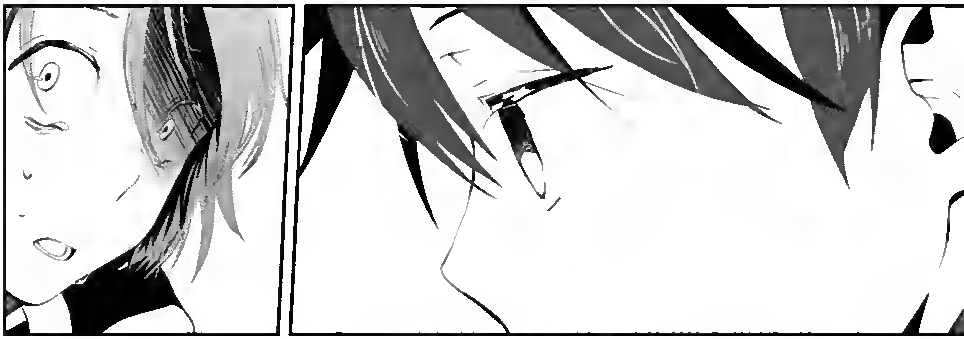

AH!
THOSE GLASSES...
OH MY. I MEANT TO CUT IT OFF, BUT IT JUST BROKE.
KAAAA!
...HAVE A PRETTY NICE BARRIER IN THEM.
AAAAHHH!
UGH...
GUH.
DOKU
DOKU (THROB)


AHH! GUH!
YOU KNOW, PROVISIONAL APPRENTICES...
...ARE MERE HUMANS WHO CAN PROPERLY STAND AGAINST MAGICIANS.
THAT'S THE ONE THING THEY HAVE GOING FOR THEM.


SO THEY'RE ACTUALLY THE EASIEST TARGETS...
HAA.
HAA.
SO EVEN THOUGH IT'S USUALLY A DEATH SENTENCE TO KILL A HUMAN OUTSIDE OF WORK...
...PROVISIONAL APPRENTICES ARE THE ONE EXCEPTION.

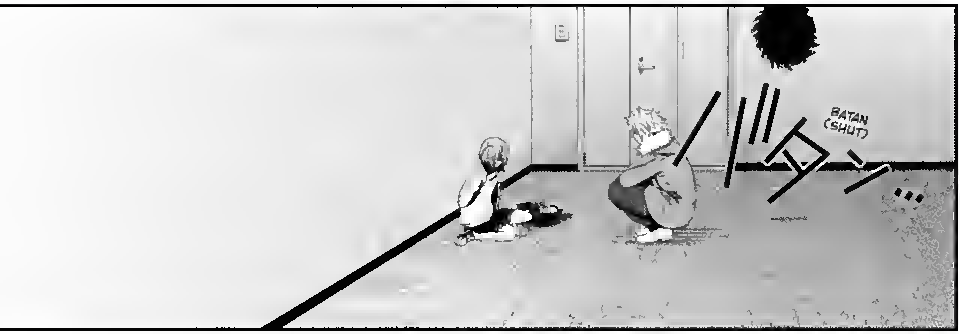

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT ONE EITHER!
WHA?
POOR THING...
SO YOU WERE MADE A PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE WITHOUT EVEN GETTING ANY EXPLANATIONS...?
SU (REACH)
GU! (GRAB)
I HOPE SAKI-KUN...
...MAKES IT HERE TO SAVE YOU BEFORE YOU DIE.
!
EXCUSE ME.
AH...


COULD I GO TO THE BATHROOM?

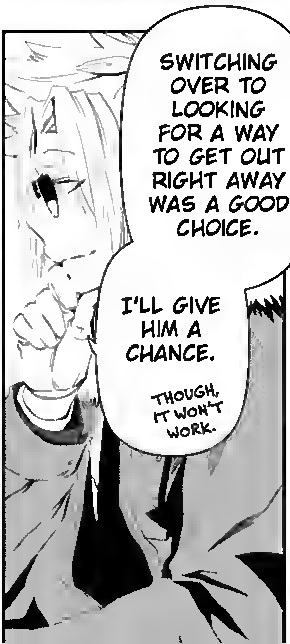



YOU GUYS GO WITH HIM.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPIRITS, SO YOU STILL HAVE TO ELIMINATE...!
I SEE...


.....
...EXCUSE ME.
...OUKA-KUN, YOU LIKE TAKAHATA-SAN, DON'T YOU?

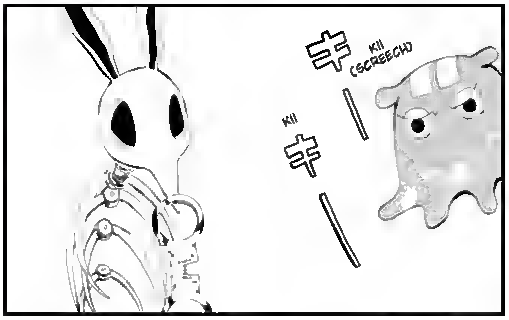

PATAN (SHUT)
...


HAA.
SOMEONE WITH NORMAL SENSIBILITIES...
...WOULDN'T LEAVE A GIRL ALONE IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.
HAA.


SWITCHING OVER TO LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET OUT RIGHT AWAY WAS A GOOD CHOICE.
I'LL GIVE HIM A CHANCE.
THOUGH, IT WON'T WORK.

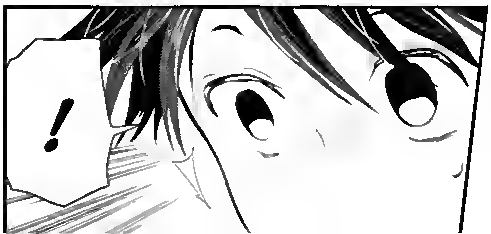
SIGN. MEN'S RESTROOM



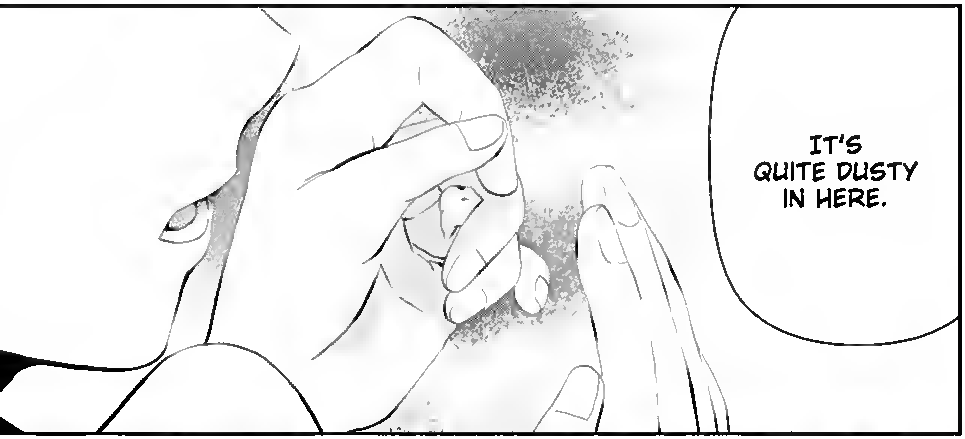




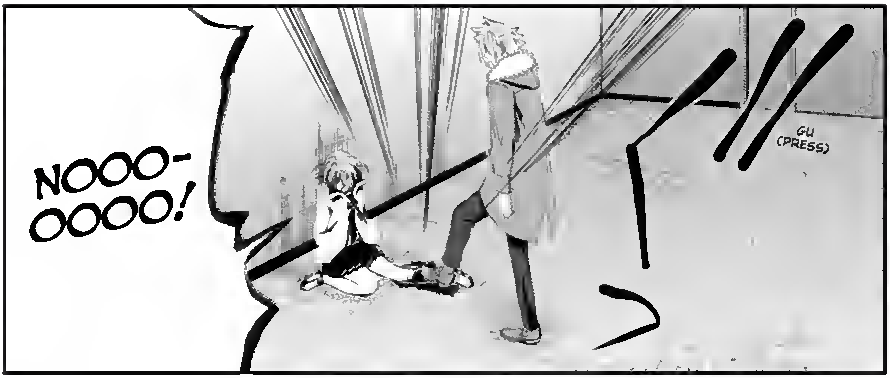




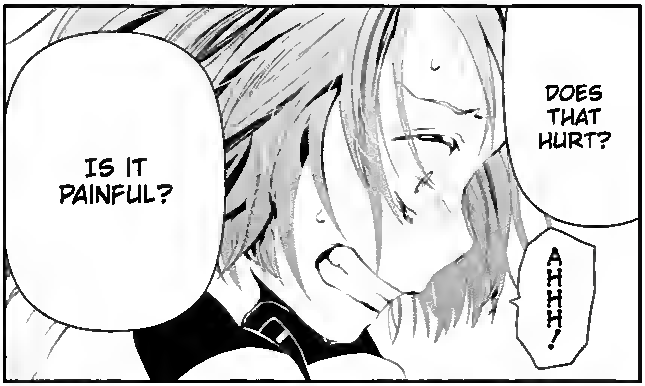

KOFF!
KII
...
EXCUSE ME.
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
!


IT'S QUITE DUSTY IN HERE.


じゅわぁ
JIWAA (OOZE)


NOOO-
OOOO!
GU
(PRESS)

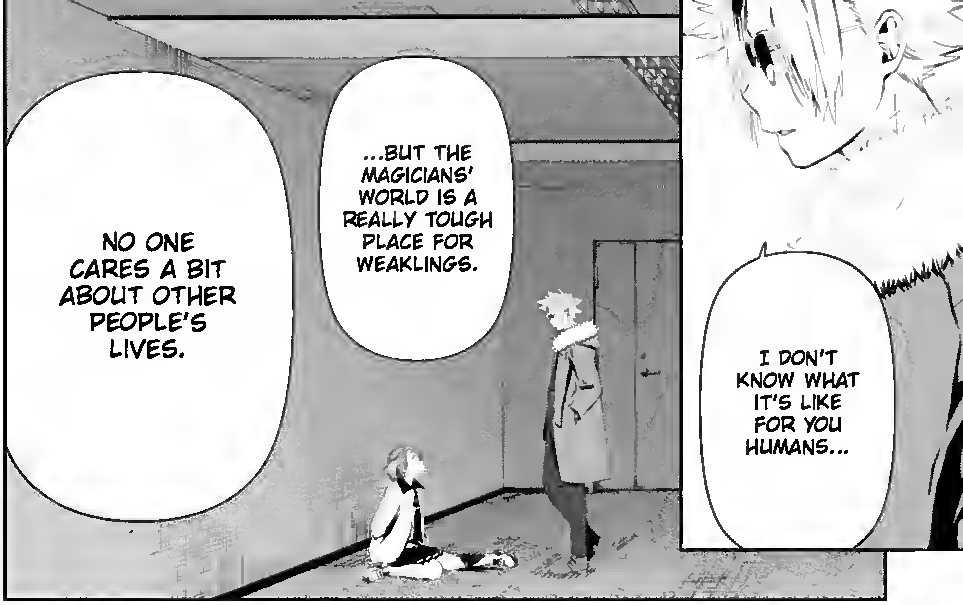


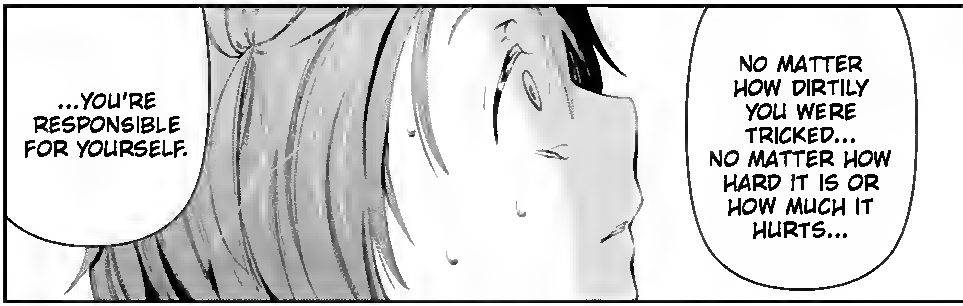

IS IT
PAINFUL?
DOES
THAT
HURT?
AHHH!



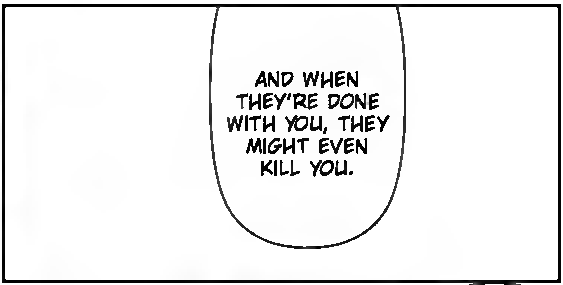

...IS
ALL YOUR
FAULT.
BUT
THIS...
!?


YOU CAN'T BLAME IT ON SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU CAN'T JUST SAY IT'S COINCIDENCE.
BECAUSE YOU BECAME SAKI HAIJIMA'S PROVISIONAL APPRENTICE...
BECAUSE YOU GOT INVOLVED IN THE MAGICIANS' WORLD...
BECAUSE YOU'RE SHOU TAKAHATA, THIS HAPPENED.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TAUGHT.


NO ONE CARES A BIT ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.
...BUT THE MAGICIANS' WORLD IS A REALLY TOUGH PLACE FOR WEAKLINGS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR YOU HUMANS...


...YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF.
NO MATTER HOW DIRTILY YOU WERE TRICKED... NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS OR HOW MUCH IT HURTS...


...AND NO ONE COMES TO SAVE YOU WHEN YOU'RE DYING.
...BUT FOR THE MOST PART, YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOURSELF.
I'LL COME TO SAVE YOU IF THEY GET A HOLD OF YOU


AND WHEN THEY'RE DONE WITH YOU, THEY MIGHT EVEN KILL YOU.

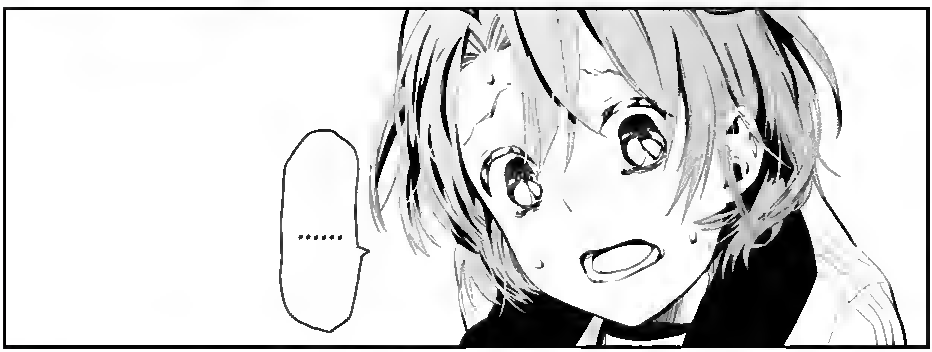

YOU TRY TO MAKE THEM LIKE YOU, AND YOU KEEP DOING WHAT THEY TELL YOU TO...
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT...


IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING IN THE NEXT FIVE SECONDS...
...I THINK I'LL KILL YOU.

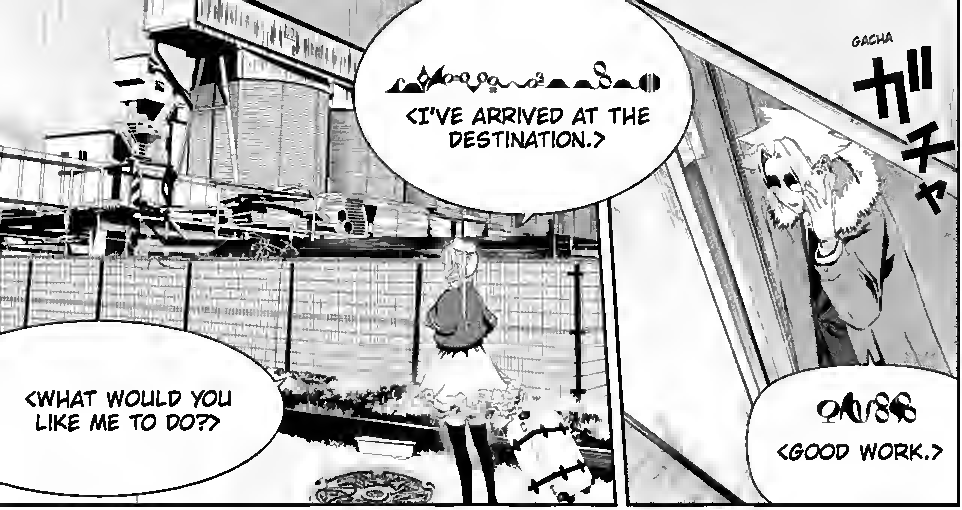

NOW...
...CHOOSE.


WILL YOU WAIT FOR SAKI-KUN AND BE KILLED BY ME?
GUGU (GRIND)
OR WILL YOU TALK AND GO ON LIVING?
AH!
I DO HOPE YOU MAKE THE CHOICE THAT IS BEST FOR YOU.
GUGUGU
KYAAAAA!
...YOU...
I'LL TELL—


GACHA
(KA-CHAK)
カ!!
チャ
I'M BACK.


……


VUUU
VUUU
(BZZZ)
!
YOUR PHONE IS RINGING.
……
VUUU


<I'VE ARRIVED AT THE DESTINATION.>
GACHA
ガチャ
<WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?>
<GOOD WORK.>

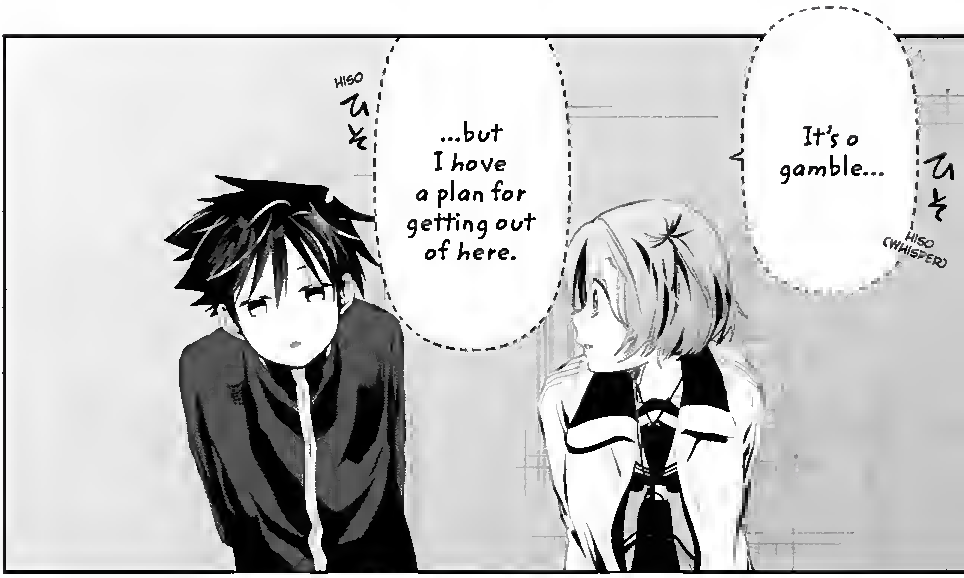

<There's no need for that. I don't have to make you do any dirty work.>
<Ah, the roads are just getting busy.>

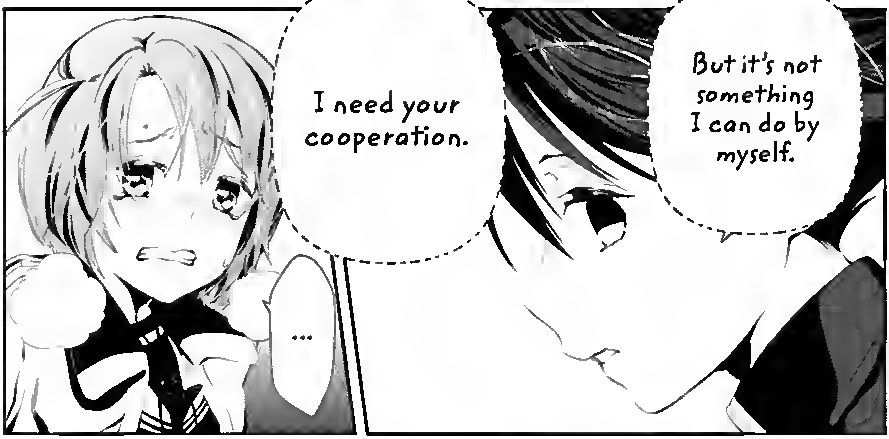

PLEASE DON'T CRY.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE...
KATA (TREMBLE)
カタ
KATA
カタ
SU (SLIDE)
スッ
.. AH.
I...


I WILL PROTECT YOU.
...
YOU'RE THE PERSON I LOVE.

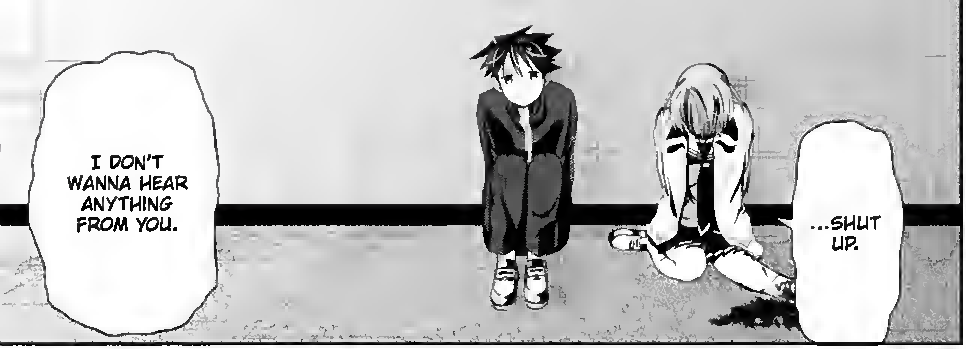



I WILL PROTECT YOU.
...
YOU'RE THE PERSON I LOVE.

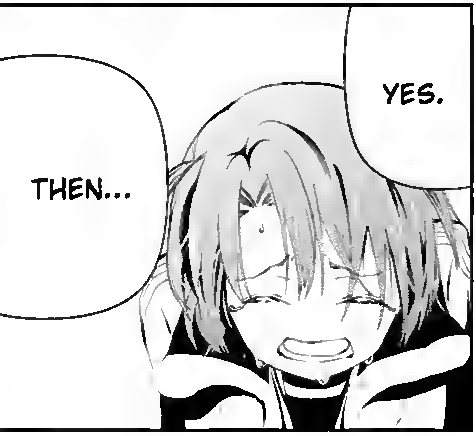

HISO
...but I have a plan for getting out of here.
It's a gamble...
HISO (WHISPER)

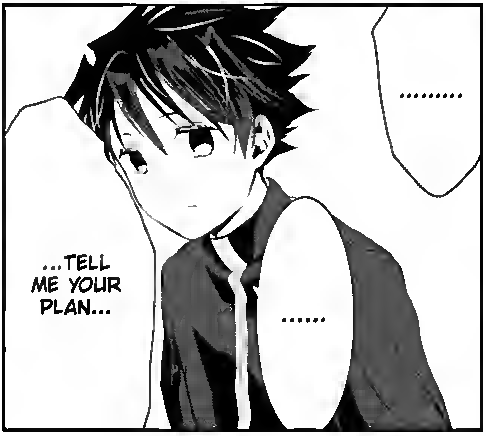

I need your cooperation.
But it's not something I can do by myself.
...


I KILLED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS MY FRIEND.


I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANYTHING FROM YOU.
...SHUT UP.


HAA.
I DON'T WANT TO LET LEO-SAN OR HAIJIMA-SENSEI KILL YOU.
AH.


YES.
THEN...


.....
...TELL ME YOUR PLAN...
.....


...WOULD YOU LET LEO-SAN'S SPIRIT EAT YOU FOR A BIT?
HUH!?


SAAK!
<SAAAK!!!!>
SO!
<LEO...!>
ピチチ PI CHI CHI
THE SKY WAS SO CLEAR AND BLUE.
ピチチ PI (TWEET) CHI (CHIRP) CHI
<LEO-KUN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS JUST KEEP SURPRISING ME EACH AND EVERY TIME.>
THE AIR WAS FULL OF THE SMELL OF GRASS AND A NICE WARM BREEZE.
わ WAA (CHATTER)
AH HA HA.
Zzz


<LEOOO, WHAT IS IT?>
<I'M QUITE PROUD OF MY GRANDSON.>
DOKIN (THUMP)
PI (TWEET)
CHI CHI
<HEY, SAKI.>
<HMM?>
CHI CHI (CHIRP)
<WHY DO YOU HIDE YOUR POWER?>


<I'M THE MOST POWERFUL EVER SO I CAN TELL!>
<DUMMY! YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD!>
<WHAAA?>
DOSA (THUD)
MMPH!
<YOU'RE ONLY USING ABOUT HALF OF YOUR POW—>
GYUUU (G...UH)
<OH...>
<OF HAVING EVERYONE EXPECTING THINGS FROM YOU...?>
<AREN'T YOU SCARED, LEO?>
<IF I DO THINGS RIGHT GRANDPA AND THE OTHERS PRAISE ME!>
MUKU (RISE)
<...? I LIKE IT WHEN THEY EXPECT THINGS.>


<...YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR NAME.>
<LEO KOENIG...>


TWENTY YEARS AGO, I DIDN'T KNOW JUST HOW IMPORTANT...
<YOU'RE A REALLY TOLERANT PERSON.>


BOGO (MUMBLE)
<If I was really tolerant, I wouldn't be doing this now...>
...THOSE WORDS WERE.

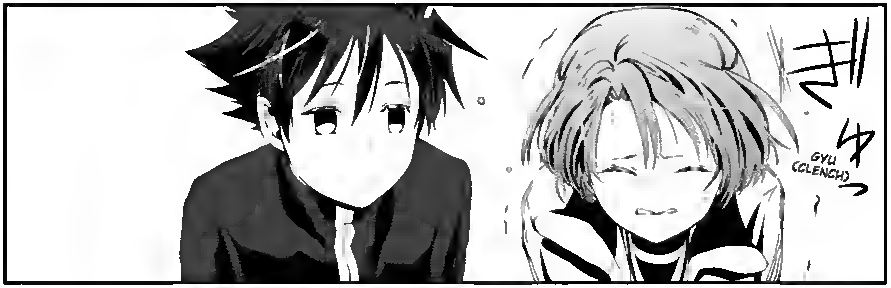

GACHA (KA-CHAK)
STUPID!
ST—

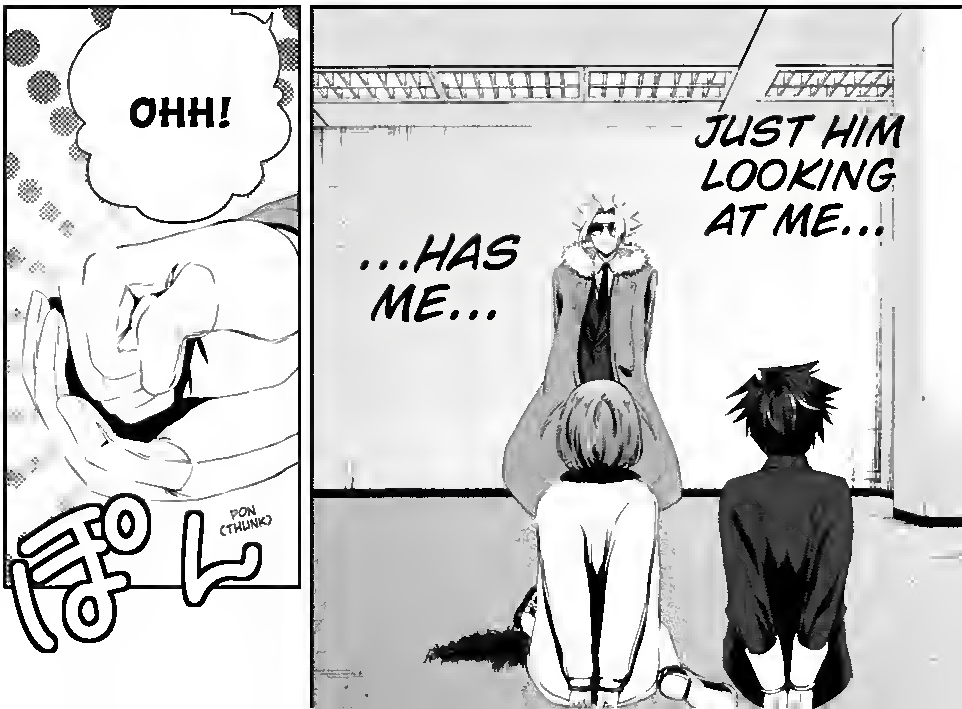

POKAN (GAWK)
ほのかん
UMM...
...THEN HAVE YOUR SPIRIT EAT ME!
STUPID, STUPID SUNGLASSES MAN! IF YOU'RE REALLY THAT MAD...
THIS MIGHT BE ODD COMING FROM ME...
...BUT ARE YOU OKAY?
CHAPTER 9 "LEO KOENIG"


FIVE MINUTES EARLIER...
KOSO
KOSO (WHISPER)
You wouldn't actually be eaten.
I'm not doing that! No way!
FUWA
FUWA (FLOAT)
You want me to let sunglasses man's spirit eat me!?
THE MAGICIAN CAN'T EAT OR DRINK...
A FAMILIAR AND ITS MASTER SHARE THE SAME FATE. LIKE A BABY IN ITS MOTHER'S WOMB.
...BUT IF YOU POISON THE FAMILIAR, BOTH THE FAMILIAR AND ITS MASTER WILL FEEL THE EFFECTS.
BOSO (PSST)
You'll give the poison that I prepared to the spirit, just as it's trying to eat you.
KOFF
POISON...?


Whoever's going to be eaten has to make the spirit angry.
KOSO
But why do I have to do it...?
KOSO
The poison that I have on me is a powerful numbing agent that I designed to be used on magicians.
I'll carry you out of here while they're under the effects of the poison.
...
And I just don't understand such complex emotions.
HAA.
HAA.
...HE SAYS THAT. BUT STILL...


NOOO-
OOOO!


GYU
(CLENCH)


OHH!
PON
(THUNK)
JUST HIM LOOKING AT ME...
...HAS ME...

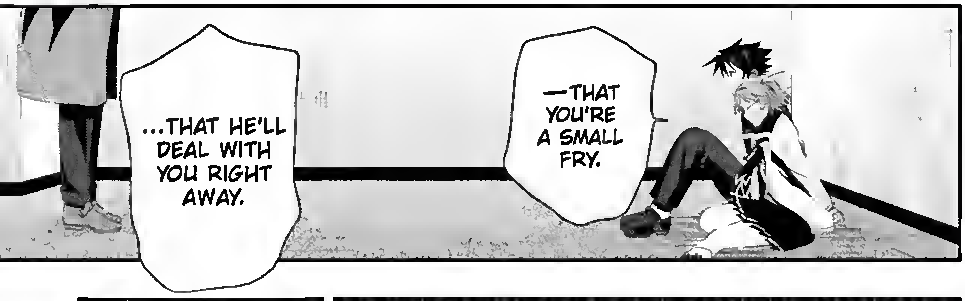

...TRYING TO POISON ME, RIGHT?
YOU'RE...


?
YOU WERE GOING TO TRY TO ANGER MY FAMILIAR AND FEED HIM THE POISON YOU'RE HIDING ON YOU WHILE HE WAS DISTRACTED, RIGHT?
IT WAS HARD TO HEAR CLEARLY, BUT I DID CATCH THAT MUCH.
!?


...SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

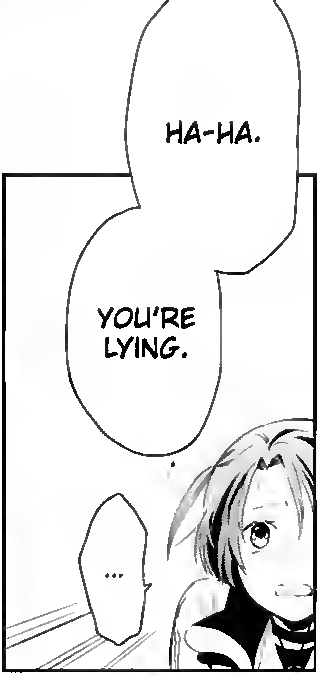

A- A BUG...!?
...HAVE A BUG OR SOME-THING ON US.
YOU...
HUH ...!?
WHEN DID HE DO THAT...?
BIKU (FLINCH)
I MADE IT REALLY CUTE, SO YOU SHOULD LIKE IT! ♪
IT'S MY HOBBY.
IF I HAD USED MAGIC IN SAKI-KUN'S TERRITORY, HE'D KNOW.
A FAMILIAR'S MENTAL STATE IS DEEPLY INTEGRATED WITH ITS MASTER'S...
...SO WHEN I'M AGITATED, MY LITTLE ONES WILL BE IRRITATED AS WELL...
HMM. PISSING ME OFF AND THEN POISON, HUH...?
PYON (HOP)
ひよん
HUP!


C-COME TO THINK OF IT, HAIJIMA-SAN WAS SAYING...
I CAN SMILE AND NOD AT A BOSS WHO PISSES ME OFF. IF I COULDN'T HOLD BACK AND SUCK UP TO PEOPLE, I NEVER COULD HAVE GOTTEN AS FAR AS I HAVE AT THIS YOUNG AGE AND LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE!
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH! DO I REALLY LOOK THAT DISTURBED TO THESE KIDS!?
(BUTSU)
?
(BUTSU CMUTTER)
BA (SHOCK)
I GUESS I CAN'T HELP IT, BUT IT'S STILL A SHOCK...

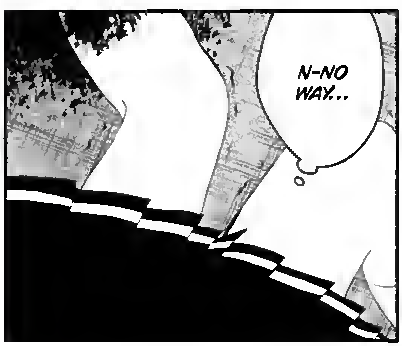

...THAT HE'LL DEAL WITH YOU RIGHT AWAY.
—THAT YOU'RE A SMALL FRY.

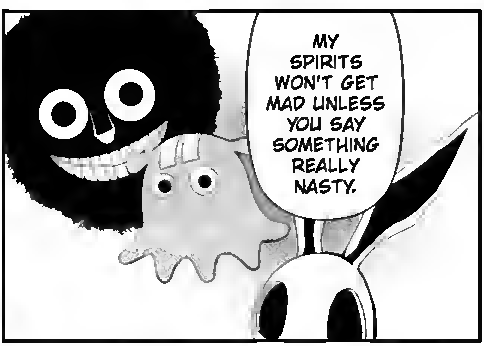

HAAAA.


SAKI-KUN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HOW POWERFUL ANYONE ELSE IS.
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT ME FROM HIM.

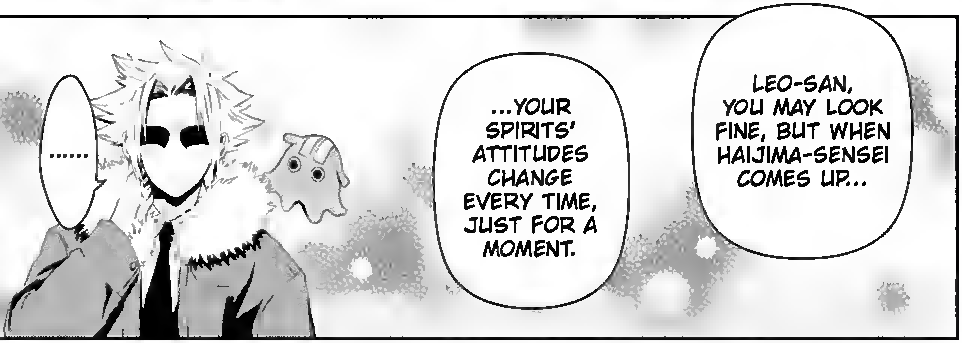

HA-HA.
YOU'RE LYING.
...


AT THIS AGE, I'M USED TO HEARING PEOPLE BAD-MOUTH ME.
HIRA
HIRA (WAVE)
JUST GIVE UP.

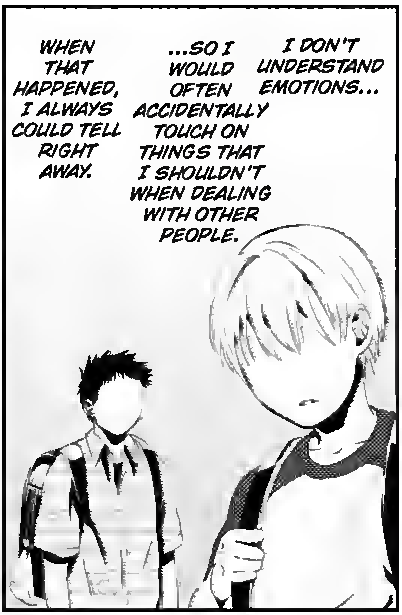

N-NO WAY..


MY SPIRITS WON'T GET MAD UNLESS YOU SAY SOMETHING REALLY NASTY.


!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. KEEP ON THAT TRACK.


.....
...YOUR SPIRITS' ATTITUDES CHANGE EVERY TIME, JUST FOR A MOMENT.
LEO-SAN, YOU MAY LOOK FINE, BUT WHEN HAIJIMA-SENSEI COMES UP...


BUT I NEVER KNEW WHAT I'D DONE WRONG.

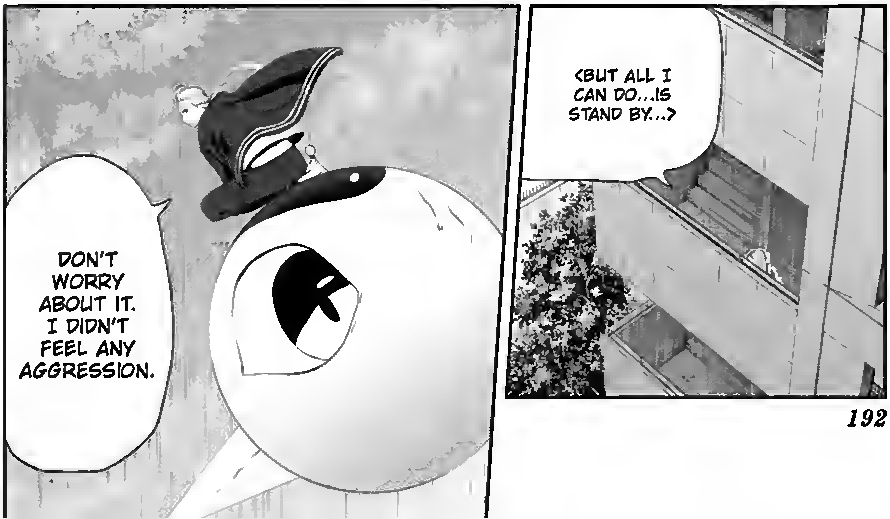

I DON'T UNDERSTAND EMOTIONS...
...SO I WOULD OFTEN ACCIDENTALLY TOUCH ON THINGS THAT I SHOULDN'T WHEN DEALING WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I ALWAYS COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY.


THOUGH, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO MAKE YOU ANGRY.
.....


But I don't know anything about him or magicians!
I don't know what else to say...
Let's see...
LEO KOENIG IS THE HEAD OF THE KOENIG FAMILY, WHICH HAS ITS MAIN BRANCH IN GERMANY.
HE WAS SAID TO BE THE MOST TALENTED MAGICIAN IN HISTORY. BUT THEN HAIJIMA-SENSEI KNOCKED HIM DOWN TO THE NUMBER TWO SPOT.
BECAUSE OF THAT, HE HAS SOME SERIOUS ISSUES WHEN IT COMES TO SENSEI.
OTHER THAN THAT, HE OFTEN...
...TRAVELS WITH A GROUP OF MAGICIAN FAILURES.
FAILURES...?


...AND SERVE OTHERS AS "FAILURES."
HOWEVER, THOSE WITHOUT A LOT OF POWER WILL NOT MAKE CONTRACTS...
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GOSO
...THEY'RE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS A MAGICIAN.
WHEN A MAGICIAN MAKES A CONTRACT WITH A SPIRIT, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
YURA (DRIFT)
<OKAY...>
?
<I'M SURE YOU WANTED TO GET BACK TO YOUR REAL MASTER RIGHT AWAY, DIDN'T YOU?>
KACHA
<SO I'M ON STANDBY...>
KACHA (CLATTER)
<I WAS SUPPOSED TO COME THROUGH AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE AND MEET UP WITH LEO-SAMA.>
ZOKU... (SHUDDER)
!?
KAREN BRENNAN, THIRD DAUGHTER OF THE BRENNAN FAMILY


<I CAN'T TELL FOR SURE BECAUSE OF THE BARRIER, BUT I CAN FEEL HIM...?
<HAIJIMA-SAMA...?>


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I DIDN'T FEEL ANY AGGRESSION.
<BUT ALL I CAN DO...IS STAND BY...>


DAMN IT... THEY'RE REALLY WELL HIDDEN...
ONLY LEO COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
...I'M NOT GOING TO FIND THEM JUST BY FEELING AROUND FOR THEM.
WITH SUCH A SENSITIVE "MENTAL BARRIER" UP...
IT WOULD BE REALLY BAD IF ANYTHING ENDED UP HAPPENING TO HIM...
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
3':<
BUKU (BUBBLE)



UNLIKE A PHYSICAL BARRIER, A MENTAL BARRIER...

...FALLS RIGHT APART IF ANOTHER PERSON'S POWER TOUCHES IT.



IT'S A HUGE UNDERTAKING, BUT ALL I CAN DO IS KEEP PUTTING OUT POWER UNTIL SOME TOUCHES LEO'S BARRIER.

.....

.....

NAMAE...

.....

.....

.....


BI
(FWIP)
!?
Also...


NO MORE GAMES, KIDDIES.


LET'S GET THINGS MOVING.


...BUT YOU'RE REALLY TRYING TO MAKE ME MAD.
I THOUGHT MAYBE THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE GOING ON, SO I WAS JUST WATCHING ...

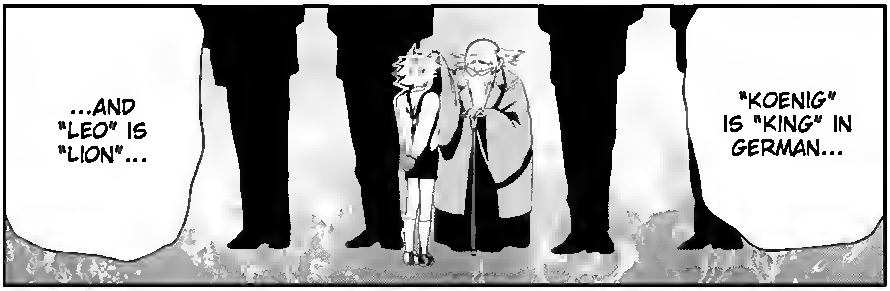

...I THINK I'LL KILL YOU.
IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING IN THE NEXT FIVE SECONDS...
KATSUN (THUD)
OKAY, TAKAHATA-SAN?
LET'S GET GOING AGAIN. TELL ME ALL ABOUT SAKI-KUN.
ANYTHING'S OKAY. JUST SAY WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF!
A—


...OR SO THEY SAY, BUT THE TRUTH IS...
ヒュン HYUN
ヒュン HYUN (WHOOSH)
...I'LL START WITH LEO-SAN. HIS FAMILY IS A FAMOUS MAGICIAN FAMILY...
OKAY... THEN...
I DON'T WANNA DO THAT ANY-MORE.


KATSUN
.....
.....
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO...? NOT ONLY DO I NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT MAGICIANS IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...BUT I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT THAT KNIFE THAT I REALLY CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING!
.....
.....
AT THIS RATE...
GATA (TREMBLE)
GATA
.....ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE NAME LEO KOENIG..... IN GERMAN.....
.....
AH.
THEY PAIRED THAT NAME WITH THE LAST NAME HE ALREADY HAD. FOR AGES, MAGICIANS HAVE...
HUH?
THE MEANING OF HIS NAME...


KATSUN (TAUD)
...
...
Everything will be fine.
HUH?
KATSUN
KATSUN
U-UM...!
KATA (TREMBLE)
KATA
BOSO (WHISPER)
BOSO


YOU HAVE A REALLY AMAZING NAME.
PIKU CTWITCH


"KOENIG" IS "KING" IN GERMAN...
...AND "LEO" IS "LION"...


FOR YOUR PARENTS TO GIVE YOU THAT NAME... THEY MUST...
...HAVE REALLY EXPECTED NOTHING BUT THE BEST FROM YOU, RIGHT?
"LEO, YOU ARE A GENIUS! I'M CERTAIN YOU'RE CUT OUT TO BE THE CONTROLLER."
"LEO... YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR NAME."

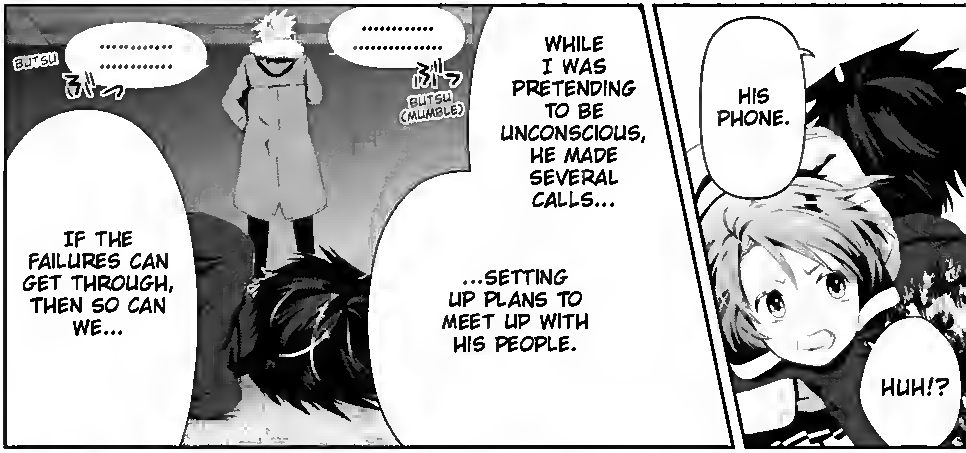

HA.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NUMBER TWO.
GUKA (FWOOSH)


WAIT, BEHEMO!
GHHH (SCREECH)
BA (SWIP)
YOU'RE MY MAIN CONTRACT, SO YOU'LL TAKE ALL OF THE DAMAGE DIRECTLY!
KYAAA!
ZA (WHOOSH)
BUCHI (SNAP)
GACHA (RATTLE)


DOSUN (THUD)
JIWA (OOZE)
じわぁ
YOU REALLY HAVE THE DEVIL'S OWN LUCK, DON'T YOU?
NAMAE...
...YOUR BACK...!


GA (GRAB)
UGH!
I'M SURE IT HURTS, BUT EXCUSE ME.
GAKU (SLUMP)
OHHH MY. THIS IS BAD.
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA (TAP)
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET DOWNSTAIRS. THERE'S A PATH THROUGH THE BARRIER!
A PATH...!?
.....


DA
DA
DA
DA
DA (TIMID)
THERE'S A BARRIER UP AROUND THE BUILDING TO MAKE IT SO WE CAN'T ESCAPE...
...BUT LEO-SAN WILL HAVE MADE A PATH THROUGH IT.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE!?


HIS PHONE.
HUH!?
WHILE I WAS PRETENDING TO BE UNCONSCIOUS, HE MADE SEVERAL CALLS...
...SETTING UP PLANS TO MEET UP WITH HIS PEOPLE.
BUTSU
.....
.....
BUTSU (MUMBLED)
.....
.....
IF THE FAILURES CAN GET THROUGH, THEN SO CAN WE...

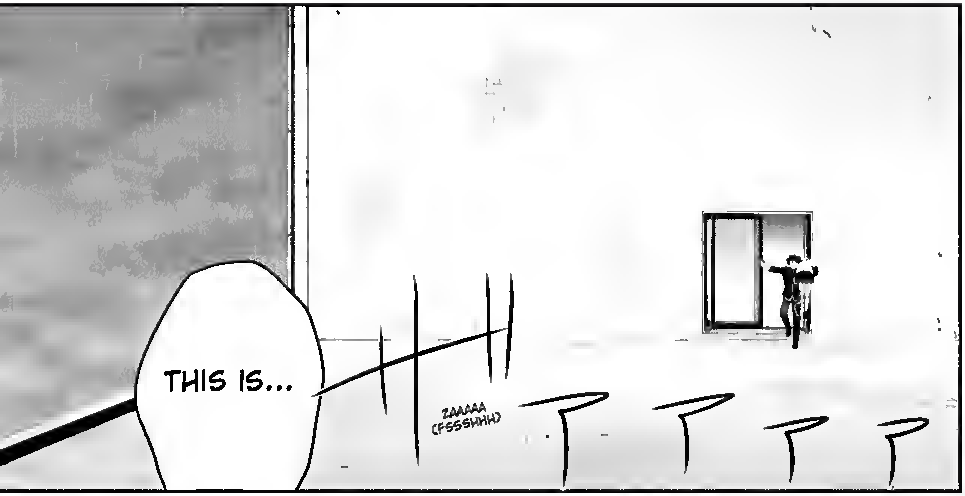

WE'RE IN AN INDUSTRIAL AREA, SO THERE SHOULD BE A BIG RIVER NEARBY. THERE ARE A LOT OF PRETTY BIG UNDERGROUND WATERWAYS AROUND HERE, SO THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE PATH OUT WILL BE UNDERGROUND.
??
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DON'T NEED TO GET IT, THOUGH THIS IS SOMETHING EVEN A GRADE-SCHOOLER WOULD UNDERSTAND.


HMM.
HMM.
YEAH, YEAH. I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW. ♪


LET'S GO, BEHEMO.
BAKO (KA-RAM)


...BUT IT'S RIGGED SO THAT ONLY APPROVED PEOPLE CAN GET THROUGH.
I DID LEAVE A HOLE OPEN UNDERGROUND SO KAREN-CHAN CAN MEET UP WITH ME...
(THUD)
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...!?
!?


SHIN (SILENCE)
THEY'RE NOT HERE!?
OUKA-KUN OUTWITTED ME!?
WHAT!?
ARE YOU DUMBER THAN A CHICKEN?
たん TAN
KIIIIN (SCREECH)
WHOA!
WAAAAH! WAAAAH! WAAAAH!
HEY!
WEREN'T WE HEADED DOWN-STAIRS!?
TAN (THUNK)
GARA (RATTLE)
S-SO BRIGHT...!
OH!
BOSO (WHISPER)
The bug.


THIS IS...
ZAAAAA (FSSSHHH)


The reason Haijima-sensei can't come to our rescue is because there's a barrier set up.
THE RAIN'S NOT COMING DOWN...

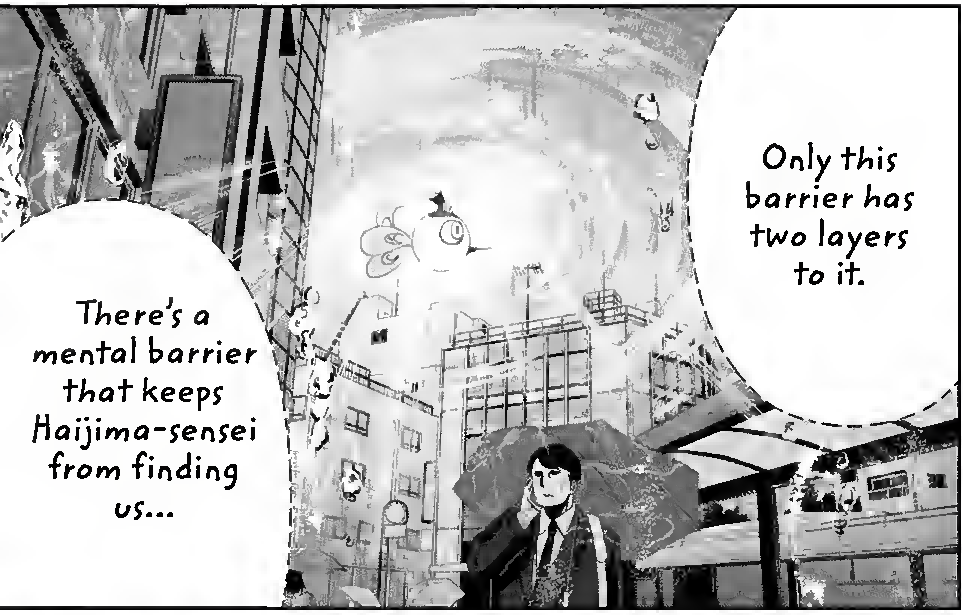

Can you even break it!?
Wait! But sunglasses man is strang, isn't he?
!?
So now, I'm going to go break it.
PAKI (CRACKLE)


PAKI
I'M AN APPRENTICE TO THE STRONGEST MAGICIAN.
HE... CAN DO ALL OF THIS TOO!?
...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SAKI-KUN'S, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT...
THIS IS...
WHAT...IS THIS HUGE POWER...?
GOGOGOGO (RRRRUMBLE)
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
PAKI (CRACKLE)
!?

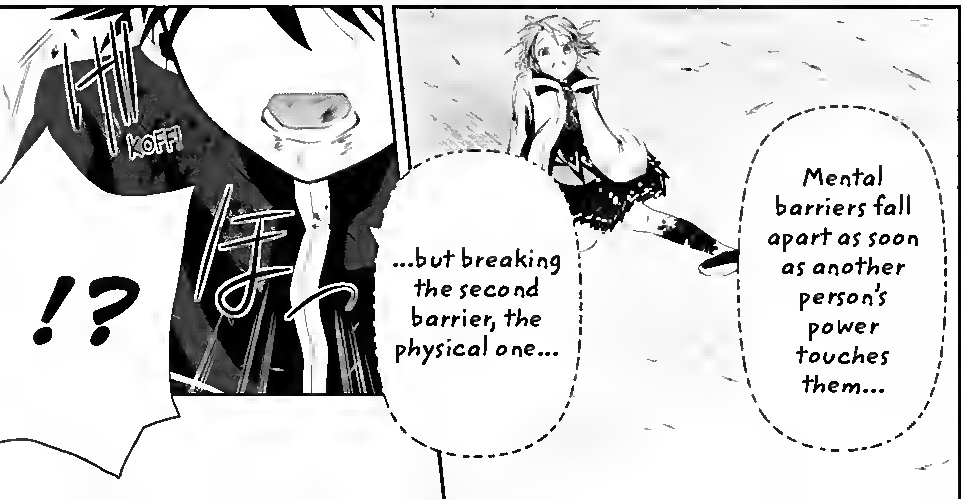

PAK!
(CRACKLE)
PAK!
PAK!
PAK!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
!?


PAKI
I'M AN APPRENTICE TO THE STRONGEST MAGICIAN.
PAKI
PAKI
...
HE... CAN DO ALL OF THIS TOO!?
GOGOGOGO (RRRRUMBLE)
THIS IS...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SAKI-KUN'S, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT...
WHAT...IS THIS HUGE POWER...?

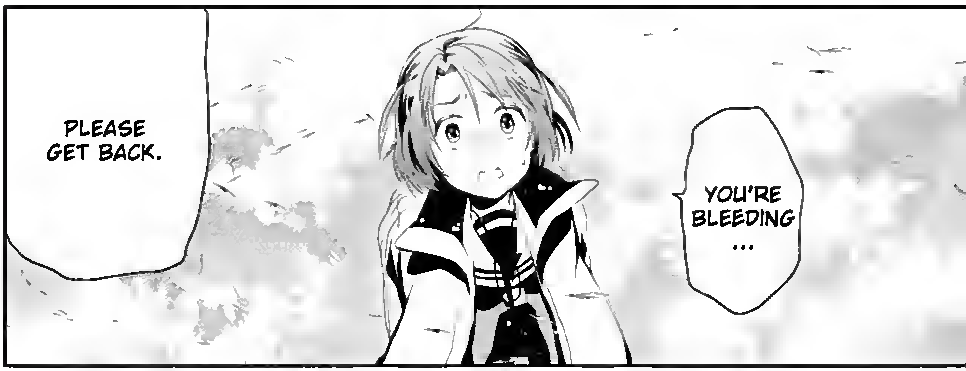

Those like the one in Ritsu's glasses that form a protective wall aut of magical pawer are "physical barriers."
And those like the one in the apartment that hides spirits from sight are "mental barriers."
GATSUN (THWACK)
Sensei told me that there are twa types of barriers.
Sensei can't come to help us because of a mental barrier.
Yau mean he can't see where we are?
It's not quite like that...
...but that's about right.

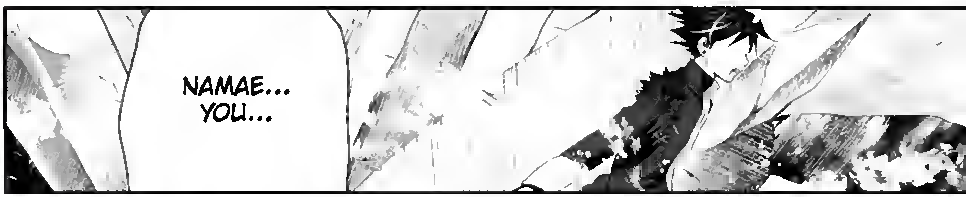

There's a mental barrier that keeps Haijima-sensei from finding us...
Only this barrier has two layers to it.


...and a physical barrier that keeps us from breaking the mental one.


KOFF!
!?
...but breaking the second barrier, the physical one...
Mental barriers fall apart as soon as another person's power touches them...


DARA (DRIP)
...IS GOING TO TAKE... EVERYTHING I'VE GOT...


PLEASE GET BACK.
YOU'RE BLEEDING ...


NAMAE... YOU...


"KOENIG IS 'KING,' AND LEO IS 'LION.'"


Everything will be fine.
GAKU
GAKU (TREMPLE)
...for now, I'll try to do something with his name and Haijima-san.
...I'll protect you no matter what.
Whether you fail or succeed...
HE FOUND US...!
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, KIDDIE?
IF HE HADN'T SAID THOSE THINGS...
HEY, NOW...
OH!


WHAT IS THAT...?
PISHI (CRACK)
PISHI
PISHI
HOW DO YOU HAVE ALL THAT POWER...?
SAKI...


BARIN (SHATTER)
ZAAAA (FSSHH)
THE RAIN'S... COMING DOWN.
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
THERE'S JUST... THE MENTAL BARRIER LEFT...
NAMAE!?
GAKU (SLUMP)
KOFF!

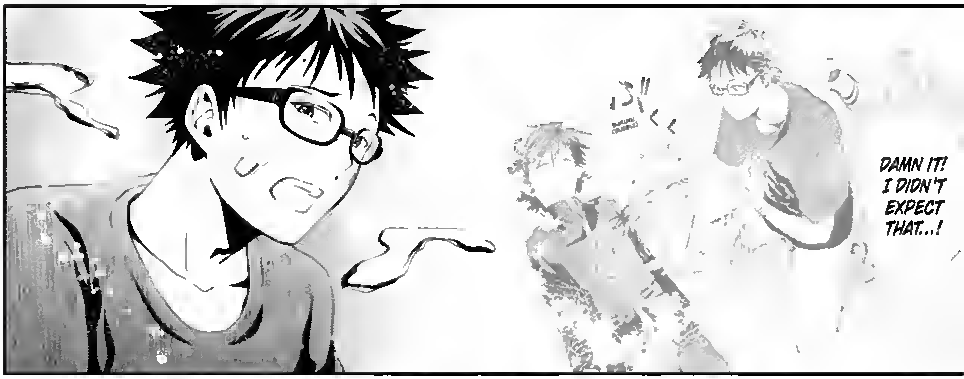

WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
OUKA NAMAE... WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE?
NO ONE BUT SOMEONE IN A CLASS WITH THE HEAD OF A TOP FAMILY SHOULD BE ABLE TO BREAK MY BARRIER...
.....
!
...REALLY, SAKI-KUN...
N-NAMAE!
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
...YOU FOUND SOMETHING REALLY DANGEROUS TO KEEP BY YOUR SIDE...!


GABA (LOOM)
GET HIM, BEHEMO!
IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, I WAS GOING TO HEAL BOTH YOUR WOUNDS...
PYUU (WHOOSH)
...AND RETURN YOU SAFELY TO SAKI-KUN.
BUT YOU'RE DANGEROUS.
GU (CLENCH)


BACHI CCRACK!
!
UGH!
!?
WHAT...
...ARE YOU DOING?


SHUT UP!!
THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED, SO I DECIDED TO WAIT INSIDE.
WHAT!?
LET'S BE FRIENDS!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN
I—
GATA (TREMBLE)
GATA
BORO (DRIP)
BUKU (BUBBLE)
I DON'T GET IT EITHER!




DAMN IT! I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT...!


YOU FOOL ...
?


FISH! (SNAP)




RYUOOO (FWOOSH)
NOOOOOO!
KYAA!
BACHIN (CRACK)
KIRA (GLINT)
AAAAH?
THIS FEELING...
...AHH.
PARIN (CRICK)
NU (SHOCK)
FROM ABOVE!?



WHEN A MAGICIAN'S PUPIL SMILES 2 END


ヨウカイ
HAIJIMA-SENSEI...



WHEN A MAGICIAN'S PUPIL SMILES 2 END

DAILY LIFE AT HAIJIMA-SAN'S HOUSE



[SAKI HAIJIMA]
HE MAKES GOOD MONEY, BUT HIS LIFE NEVER GETS ANY BETTER. HE GOES OVERSEAS FOR WORK A LOT.



[LEVI]
THE MAIN REASON THEY LIVE IN A RUN-DOWN APARTMENT. MOST OF THEIR INCOME GOES TOWARD FOOD.



[OUKA NAMAE]
IN CHARGE OF THE CHORES. NOT EVEN HAIJIMA CAN OPPOSE HIM ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD FINANCES.



LIFE AT HAIJIMA-SAN'S HOUSE CONTINUES TO BE DIFFICULT...



SPECIAL THANKS

SAI AIKAWA-SAN
OGUSHI
ASUKA KASUGA-SAN
AYA KUMAGAI-SAN
NOZOMU TAKEDA-SAN
MEGUMI TOYODA-SAN
TOMOKO FUJINUMA-SAN
BUTAKO TAI-SAN
BUNJI-SAN
ASUKA MASUDA-SAN
HARUTO MIYAKE-SAN
TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN THE MAKING OF WHEN A MAGICIAN'S PUPIL SMILES.

AND TO THOSE OF YOU WHO PICKED UP THIS BOOK!!





EXTRA EXTRA STORY DAILY LIFE AT LEO-SAN'S HOUSE

WHEN A MAGICIAN'S PUPIL SMILES ❷

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